Rebirth

スクールランブル

Vol. 13

Shonen Magazine Comics

小林尽

Jin Kobayashi

School Rumble

13

Jin Kobayashi

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY
William Flanagan

LETTERED BY
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Honorifics Explained

In this manga book, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in our manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

Cultural Note

To preserve some of the humor found in *School Rumble*, we have elected to keep Japanese names in their original Japanese order—that is to say, with the family name first, followed by the personal name. So when you hear the name Tsukamoto Tenma, Tenma is just one member of the Tsukamoto family.

School Rumble

Jin Kobayashi

13

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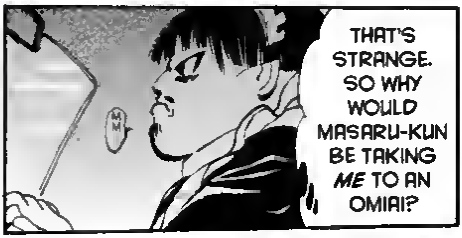
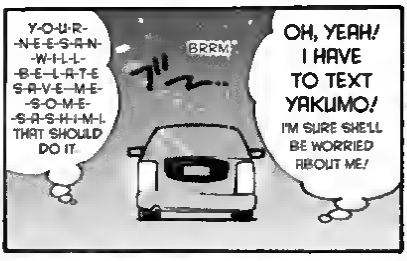
Eri



THIS SHOTGUN WEDDING MUST BE STOPPED!!
WELL, WITH THE SITUATION AS IT IS, THE ONLY THING FOR ME TO DO IS BECOME ERI'S KAGEMUSHA!!
AH!
MAYBE HE'S MISTAKEN ME FOR ERI! IT'S A NATURAL MISTAKE!!

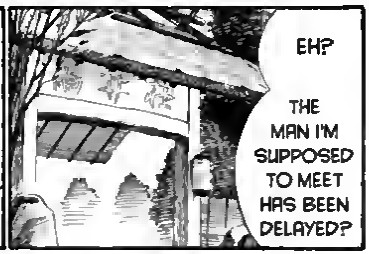

Y-O-U-R-N-E-E-S-A-N-W-I-L-L-B-E-L-A-T-E S-A-V-E-M-E-S-O-M-E-S-A-S-H-I-M-I. THAT SHOULD DO IT.
BRRM
OH, YEAH! I HAVE TO TEXT YAKUMO! I'M SURE SHE'LL BE WORRIED ABOUT ME!

#153 | HIGH SOCIETY

DMM
DMM
DMM
DMM

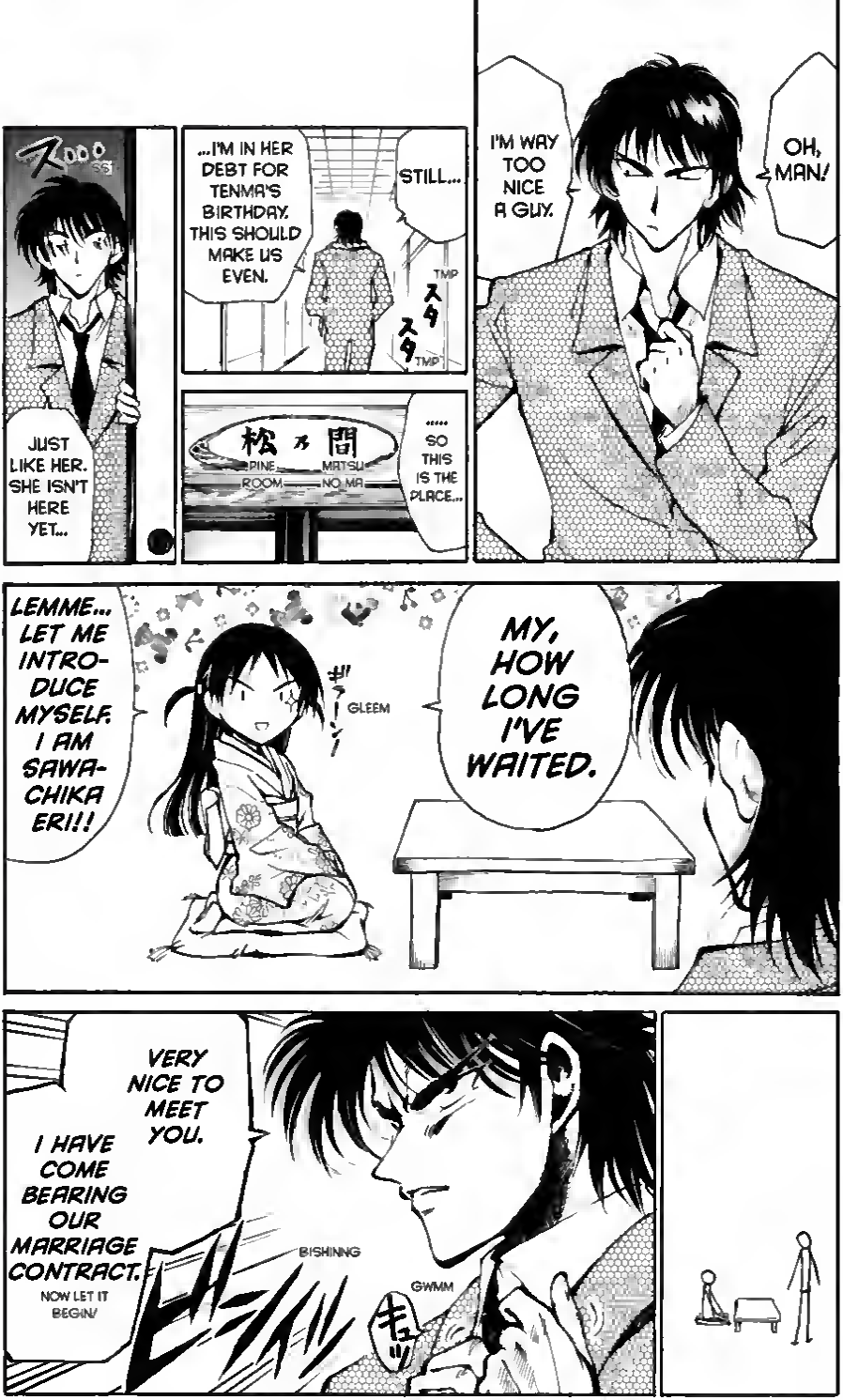
DMM
DMM

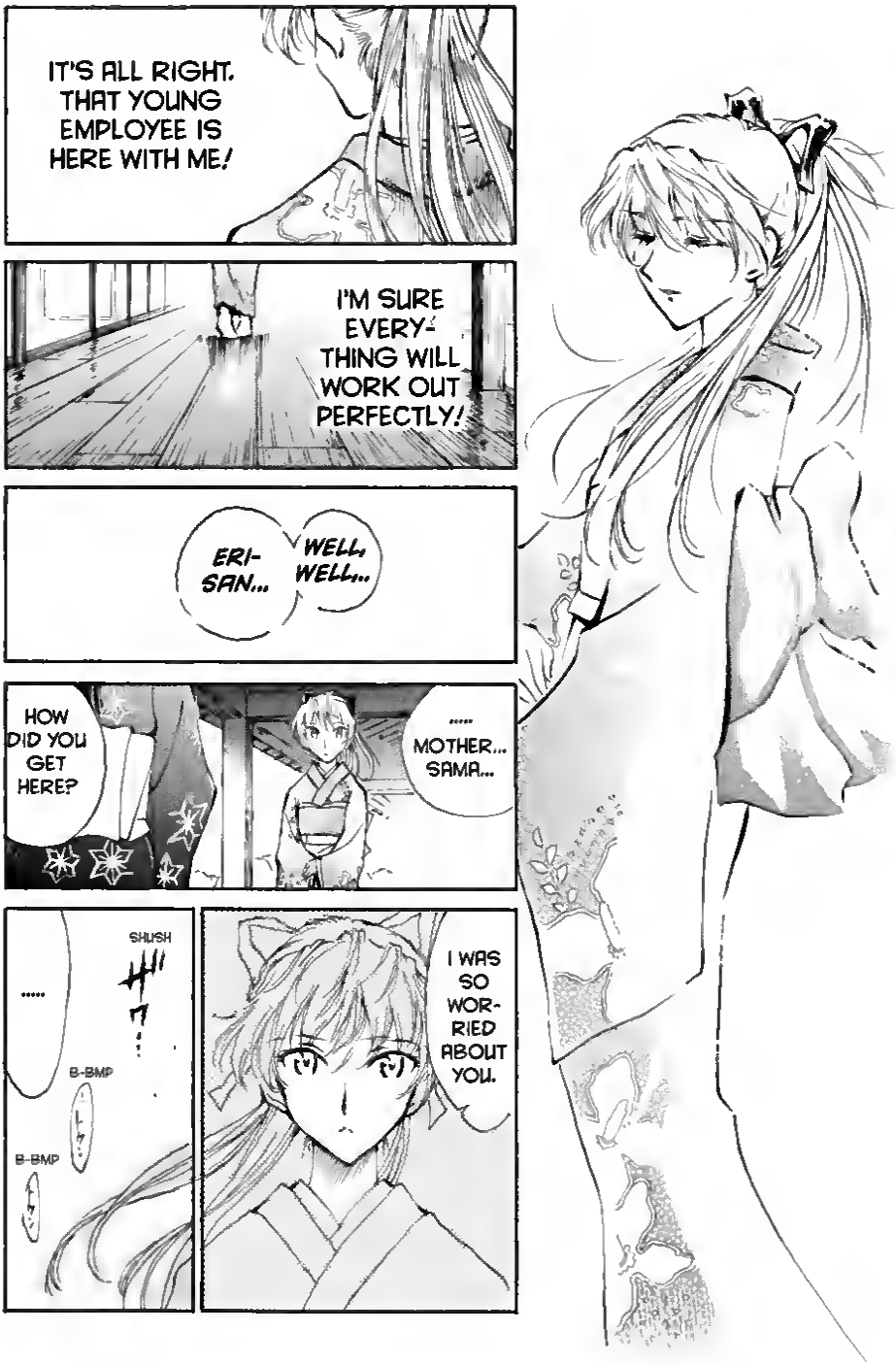
YO.
WE HAVE TO GET YOU CHANGED!
THAT'S A LUCKY BREAK.
OKAY, THIS IS HOW WE'LL PLAY IT...


EH?
THE MAN I'M SUPPOSED TO MEET HAS BEEN DELAYED?

RIGHT.
YOUR CHANGE OF CLOTHES IS IN THE NEXT ROOM.
TWRL
AFTER-WARD, COME TO THE MEETING PLACE.

YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY THE MAN I MEET.
JUST PLAY ALONG, AND WE'LL BRING THIS OMIAI TO AN END!


I'M WAY TOO NICE A GUY.
OH, MAN!
...I'M IN HER DEBT FOR TENMA'S BIRTHDAY. THIS SHOULD MAKE US EVEN.
STILL...
TMP
スタ
スタ
TMP
松ノ間
PINE ROOM
MATSU NO MA
..... SO THIS IS THE PLACE...
JUST LIKE HER. SHE ISN'T HERE YET...
LEMME... LET ME INTRO-DUCE MYSELF. I AM SAWA-CHIKA ERI!!
GLEEM
MY, HOW LONG I'VE WAITED.
VERY NICE TO MEET YOU.
I HAVE COME BEARING OUR MARRIAGE CONTRACT.
NOW LET IT BEGIN!
BISHINNG
GWMM


IT'S ALL RIGHT. THAT YOUNG EMPLOYEE IS HERE WITH ME!
I'M SURE EVERY-THING WILL WORK OUT PERFECTLY!
ERI-SAN...
WELL, WELL...
HOW DID YOU GET HERE?
..... MOTHER... SAMA...
.....
SHUSH
B-BMP
B-BMP
I WAS SO WOR-RIED ABOUT YOU.

I NEED TO TALK TO YOU...
DO YOU HAVE ...A MOMENT?
UM... I HAVE TO GO.
THE MAN IS ALREADY HERE.
PLEASE!
JUST...FOR A FEW MINUTES.
ALL RIGHT.
IF IT'S JUST FOR A FEW MINUTES.
I SEE! THEN TENMA IS HERE ALREADY!!
HAHA... IF THAT WAS THE CASE, SHE COULD HAVE JUST SAID SO!
OKAY! LET'S GET THIS DONE EVEN BEFORE THE PRINCESS GETS HERE!
UM... .....

I HAVE SOMETHING OF AN INTEREST IN MANGA...
NWAN
ぬぅん
WHAT'S YOUR HOBBY?
HA!
クスクスクス
TEE HEE HEE HEE
MAYBE I WAS A LITTLE RUDE WHEN I DID THAT. NO!, I HAVE TO PLAY THE BAD GUY AND SCORE A DECISIVE REFUSAL ON THIS OMIAI!!
WH-WHAT'S THIS? I HAVE THE FEELING THAT I'M BEING MADE FUN OF!!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
I KNOW HOW IT MUST BE...
SUCH A BOTHER FOR YOU.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, MOTHER-SAMA.
I KNOW IT ISN'T YOUR FAULT.

...PLEASE DON'T APOLOGIZE.
MOTHER-SAMA...
FORGIVE ME...
MOTHER-SAMA...
PLEASE, I...
FORGIVE ME...
IT'S TRUE...
IT'S TRUE. I ALSO FEEL RESTLESS.
THIS IS A SEASON WHEN TIME FLOWS TOO QUICKLY.
LIFE FREEZES AND A BITTER WIND HURRIES THINGS ALONG.
IT'S ALL ONE CAN DO SIMPLY TO KEEP FROM BEING LEFT BEHIND.
...OF TODAY'S PLANNED EVENTS?
WHAT DO YOU THINK...
ERI-SAN...
LET ME ASK YOU...

UM...
WHAT'S YOUR HOBBY?
I HAVE SOMETHING OF AN INTEREST IN RUBIK'S CUBES...
I DO THEM EVERY DAY.
.....
GRAB
RUSTLE
SHUFFLE
MUNCH
MUNCH
SST
RUSTLE
SHUFFLE
RETURNING THE WRAPPING TO ITS ORIGINAL SHAPE
MUNCH MUNCH
SO IT LOOKS LIKE SHE NEVER ATE IT.
.....
GLEAM
FOOD SMUDGES (NOT THERE ON PURPOSE.)
EH HEH HEH HEH HEH! HOW ABOUT THAT?! I'M A LOWDOWN, DIRTY WOMAN, RIGHT? NOW REFUSE ME!!
MARRY ME!! MARRY ME, PLEASE!!
I'LL MAKE YOU SO HAPPY!
THAT'S WHY EVERY PARTNER HAS REFUSED ME SO FAR.
THIS IS HOW I ALWAYS AM./ UHO HO HO HO HO!

IF YOU'RE AGAINST IT, ERI-SAN, THEN...
ERI-SAN... WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I'LL BE FINE.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, MOTHER-SAMA.
AH... ...MOTHER-SAMA...
THEN I'LL SET THINGS IN MOTION...
REALLY?

I'M SORRY, MOTHER-SAMA!
I HAVE TO GO!
ERI-SAN!
TMP
ON SECOND THOUGHT, I THINK I WANT TO BE WITH MY FRIENDS A LITTLE LONGER!
ACTUALLY, THIS IS JUST WHAT I NEEDED TO FIX MY UNRULY HAIR!
NOW I CAN REALLY SEE YOU!
GWIP
THAT'S MY ULTIMATE WEAPON! AFTER THAT, HE SHOULD FLY INTO A RAGE!
OH, I'M SORRY! MY HAND JUST SLIPPED!
.....
.....
DLLP
DLLP
TONK
DLLP
DLLP
DRENCHED

COULD YOU CLOSE YOUR EYES FOR A MOMENT?
WHA-? O-OF COURSE I WILL!!
.....
HUH ...?
H-HE'S SCARY! I'M SORRY, ERI-CHAN! I HAVE TO ADMIT DEFEAT!
OH, NOOO!
??
WHAT IS THIS?
すっ
SST
すっ
SST
さっ
SHP
さっ
SHP
SHUMP
IT'S ALL RIGHT! I JUST...
MR. WORK-ER!
TP
TP

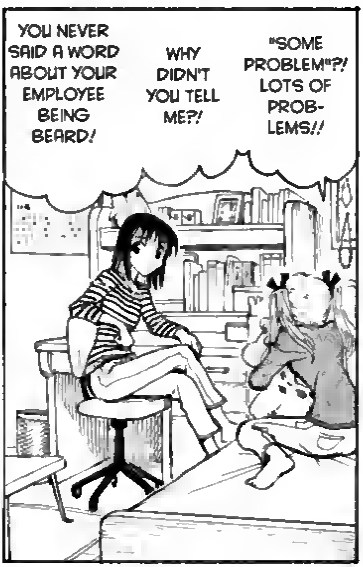
It's All Right. I Found the Problem and Stomped It Out.

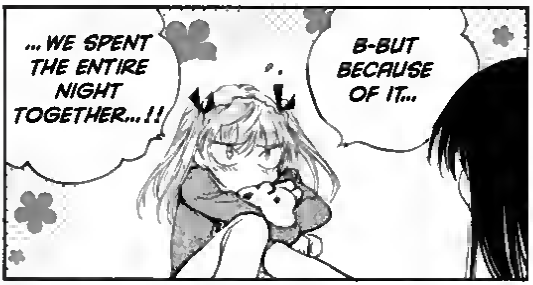
153 · · · · · · · · · Fin

#154 THE GIFT

WAS THERE SOME PROBLEM?
HM?

BESIDES, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO GOT IT WRONG!
IF YOU KNEW YOU WERE SLEEPING UNDER THE SAME ROOF WITH HIM, YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO STAY, RIGHT?


YOU NEVER SAID A WORD ABOUT YOUR EMPLOYEE BEING BEARD!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?!
"SOME PROBLEM"?! LOTS OF PROB-LEMS!!


...WE SPENT THE ENTIRE NIGHT TOGETHER...!!
B-BUT BECAUSE OF IT...

NOTHING HAP-PENED!!
NOT A THING! AND CERTAINLY NOTHING THAT YOU'RE IMAGIN-ING RIGHT NOW!!
FRENZY
FRENZY
WHAT WAS IT LIKE?
I KNEW THAT TRAVELING TOGETHER LEAVES THE DOOR WIDE OPEN FOR THINGS LIKE THIS! WOW, GOOD WORK, ER!
WELL? WELL?
FRENZY
FRENZY
FRENZY
I NEVER HEARD A WORD ABOUT THAT DEVELOP-MENT!!
YOU'RE KID-DING!!
TWIRL

.....
THE TWO OF US.
AND ONE BLANKET.
.....
THE TWO OF YOU?
AND ONE BLANKET?
...WRAPPED IN A BLANKET.
...STAYED IN AN EMPTY TEMPLE...
EH? W-WELL, WE...
THEN WHERE'D YOU GUYS SPEND THE NIGHT?
.....
!!
I WON'T SAY A WORD TO THE OTHERS!
AND YOU'RE SAYING NOTHING HAPPENED?
REALLY!! I'M TELLING YOU THAT NOTHING AT ALL HAPPENED!!
I COULDN'T HELP IT!!
IT WAS DARK AND COLD OUTSIDE, AND I DIDN'T BRING ANY MONEY!!
YEAH, YEAH. I GUESS THAT'S TRUE.
WHEN YOU'RE IN THAT SITUATION, THE ONLY THING TO DO IS STAY THE NIGHT.
THERE WAS NO POSSIBLE WAY TO AVOID IT/ ♡
NOD
コク コク
NOD
HONESTLY? NOTHING HAPPENED?
.....
WH-WHAT'S THAT FACE FOR?!
.....
.....

?
PEEP
PEEP
PEEP
KA-CHIK
くるっ
TWRL
OH, TAKANO?
I LOST BIG TIME. YOU WIN!
SHE DIDN'T TELL ME.
YEP. YOU HAD IT RIGHT. START TO FINISH.
WAIT A SEC-OND!!
WHAT WERE YOU BET-TING ON?!
CAUGHT UP IN THE MOMENT, PRIMAL INSTINCTS TAKING CHARGE TO BRING THEM TOGETHER IN A PASSIONATE KISS?
NOPE! IT'S A NICE IDEA, BUT WAY OFF THE MARK.
SHE MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT THIS GIRL IS CHICKEN!
つか
STOMP
つか
つか
STOMP
ばん
BAMM
DIDN'T THEY KISS?
THE PART-TIME JOB!
BUT WHAT I WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IS THE JOB!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE SEE EACH OTHER IN AGES, AND THAT'S WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY?!
GUTLESS.
かちゃん
KLIK
THEN IT'S DECIDED! YOU'LL BE COMING WITH ME!
JUST MEET ME AT THIS LOCA-TION.
ERI, YOU HAVE NO PLANS FOR TOMORROW, CORRECT?
OH...
EH...?
NO. I GUESS I'M FREE.
I HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO MAKE IT UP.
I'M IN DEBT TO YOUR FAMILY, MIKOTO.
EVERY YEAR AT THIS TIME, MIKOTO'S FAMILY HAS A PART-TIME JOB FOR ME.

THE NEXT DAY IN FRONT OF YAGAMI STATION...
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO? I'M GETTING NERVOUS.
COME TO THINK OF IT, THIS IS MY FIRST PART-TIME JOB EVER.
OH, NO! AKIRA ISN'T EVEN HERE...
THANK YOU ALL FOR AGREEING TO TAKE THIS JOB. WE'RE ABOUT TO BEGIN.
HON-ESTLY! GETTING INVITED TO A JOB BY AKIRA IS ENOUGH TO MAKE A GIRL NERVOUS!

DAMMIT!! I SHOULD BE ASKING *YOU* THAT!!
IT'S YOU!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
SUÔ BEGGED ME...
AKIRA ASKED ME...
...TO WORK HERE!
.....
.....
HM? HM?
MEETING HIM AT A TIME LIKE THIS!! JUST HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FACE HIM?
TSK!
OH, FOR PITY'S SAKE! WHAT ARE MIKOTO AND AKIRA THINKING?!
I'D RATHER DIE THAN HAVE BEARD RESCUE ME!
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE STUFF I DON'T KNOW ABOUT?
O-OH, NO! I HAVEN'T BEEN LISTENING TO THE BOSS'S INSTRUCTIONS!!
...THE ORNAMENTS IN THE TRUCK...
CRASH!
CRASH!
GEH HEH HEH
THEY SET ME UP...!!
THOSE TWO!!
CACKLE
CACKLE

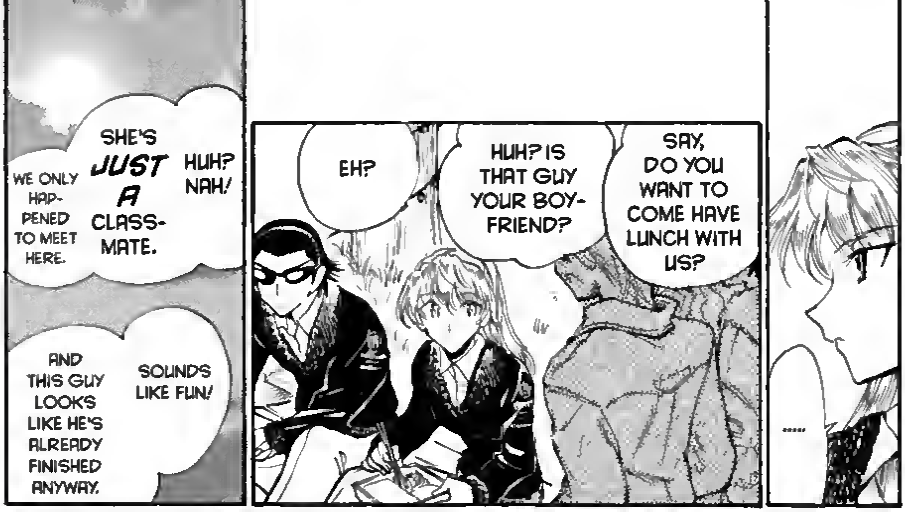
I NEED THAT CANDLE OVER THERE MOVED A LITTLE TO THE RIGHT!
HEY! IS THIS OKAY HERE?
HEY, WREATH SQUAD? ARE YOU READY?
ON THREE! ONE, TWO..
HOLD THAT UP.
GOOD. NOW PULL!
OKAY!
AH! RIGHT!
HEY, YOU! LEND US A HAND!
I'M PRETTY SURE SHE'S HIGH-SCHOOL AGE.
SHE'S SO CUTE!
YEAH, I WONDER WHY SHE NEEDS THIS JOB?
DID YOU SEE HER? THAT BLOND GIRL? IS SHE A MODEL OR SOMETHING?
I THOUGHT SO. LET ME SHOW YOU HOW IT'S DONE!
IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME?
Y-YES!
EH?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT! I'LL DO IT!
IT'S HEAVY, RIGHT?
.....HAHH..
AH... THANK YOU...

MUNCH
MUNCH
OKAY, EVERYBODY TAKE A BREAK!
AT FIRST I WAS GOING TO COMPLAIN TO THOSE TWO GIRLS...
THESE PART-TIME JOBS ARE PRETTY FUN.
...BUT NOW I THINK I CAN DO THIS!
POK
BEARD!
MIND IF I SIT HERE?
GULP
.....
MUNCH
MUNCH
.....
HMM...
MUNCH
MUNCH
I'M NOT SAYING A THING.
.....WHAT?
POP
LISTEN, YOU...
IF YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY, THEN JUST COME OUT AND SAY IT!!
YOU'RE A MAN, AREN'T YOU?
DON'T GET IN MY FACE!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU THAT I'M NOT SAYING A THING?

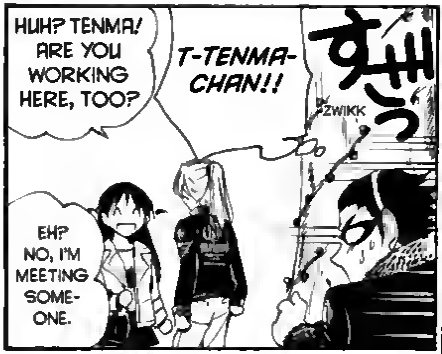
YOU AND I...
LIS-TEN...
YOU PLAYED A TRICK ON ME...
NO...THAT'S BEING TOO HARD ON HIM.
I WAS ONLY ABLE TO GO BACK HOME THANKS TO BEARD.
I PROB-ABLY SHOULD BE GRATE-FUL TO HIM.
BUT STILL, BEARD SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME WHO HE WAS!
I MEAN...
I WAS SO...
IT MADE ME INCREDIBLY EMBAR-RASSED!!
THE WAY HE...
0.2 SECONDS.

THE WAY HE...
POFF
ほl!?
SUDDENLY REMEMBERS.

STILL, I'M NOT GOING TO GET INVOLVED WITH YOU ANYMORE.
SORRY.
.....ANYWAY...
..AT LEAST YOU DON'T GO AROUND SIMPLY TELLING PEOPLE WHAT THEY WANT TO HEAR.
THERE ARE THINGS YOU NEVER SAID, EITHER!
OH, COME ON!
カン TONK
ﾊﾟﾀﾊﾟﾀ FLAP FLAP

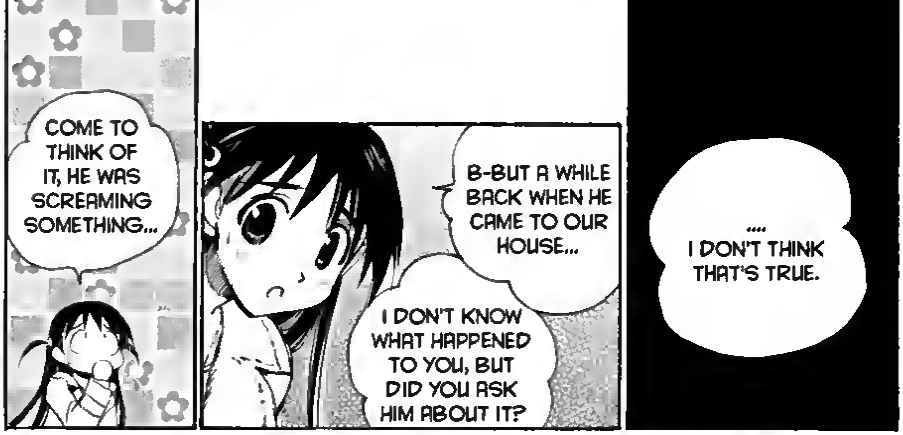

SHE'S JUST A CLASS-MATE.
WE ONLY HAP-PENED TO MEET HERE.
HUH? NAH!
AND THIS GUY LOOKS LIKE HE'S ALREADY FINISHED ANYWAY.
SOUNDS LIKE FUN!
EH?
HUH? IS THAT GUY YOUR BOY-FRIEND?
SAY, DO YOU WANT TO COME HAVE LUNCH WITH US?
.....

YES, BEARD IS THE WORST KIND OF MAN THERE IS!!



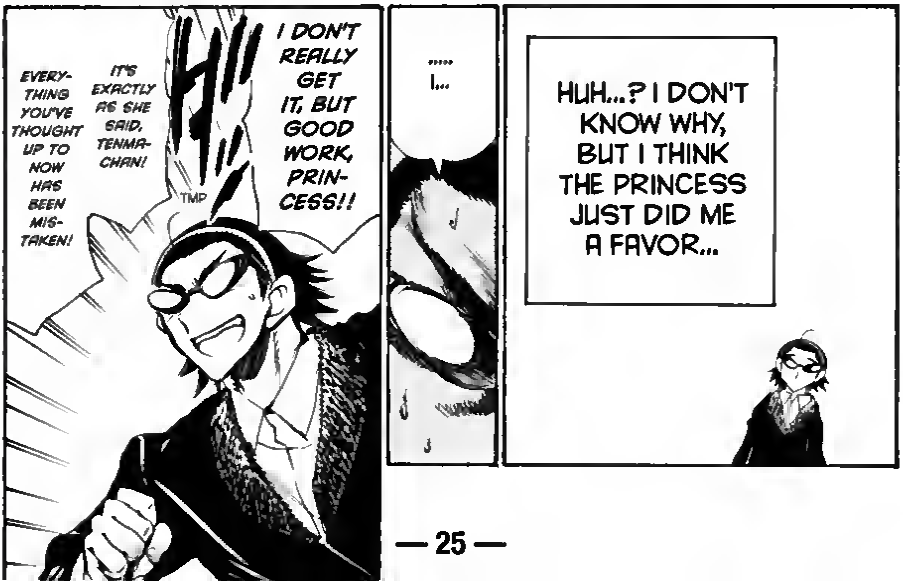
THAT DAMN PRIN-CESS/ SHE'S LIKE SOME GODDESS OF THE PLAGUE, RUINING MY RELATIONSHIP WITH TENMA-CHAN!
SEE? DIDN'T I JUST SAY SO? I SUDDENLY GOT THIS BAD PREMONITION!!

YOU'RE REALLY GOOD WITH YOUR HANDS, ERI-CHAN!
EVERY-THING I TOUCH FALLS APART! I MAKE TOO MANY BLUNDERS.
EH? IS THAT SO? WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IT'S FUN! I'M DOING BETTER THAN I THOUGHT I WOULD.
A JOB? THAT'S A RARE EVENT FOR YOU!
ACTUALLY, IT'S MY FIRST TIME EVER.
EH? HARIMA-KUN? WELL THAT'S A DISASTER!
MIKOTO SUG-GESTED THE JOB, BUT FOR SOME REASON, BEARD IS WORKING HERE, TOO.
こそっ…
SNERK
HIS FEET STINK, AND I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM IN ANY-THING OTHER THAN THE SCHOOL UNIFORM!
OF COURSE I DO! HE'S VIOLENT AND RUDE!
SO YOU THINK SO, TOO, HUH, ERI-CHAN?
YOU'RE SO RIGHT!
THAT BEARD IS THE WORST GUY EVER!
YOU'D BETTER BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU'RE AROUND HIM, ERI-CHAN!
NOT ONLY THAT! BUT HE'LL GO AFTER ANY GIRL ON THE PLANET, AND HE DOESN'T CARE WHO!
AWWWW!! THERE SHE GOES AGAIN, SENDING THE SITUATION INTO A TAILSPIN!
I KEEP TELLING YOU THAT YOU'VE GOT ME ALL WRONG, TENMA-CHAN!
YOU'RE THE ONLY GIRL FOR ME!
NOOO-OOOO!!

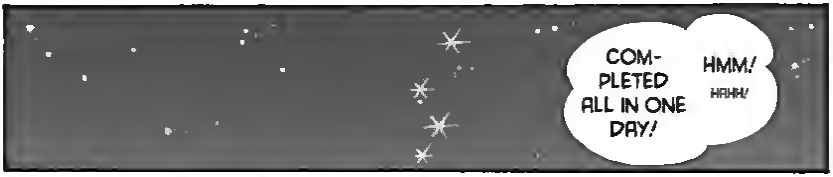

COME TO THINK OF IT, HE WAS SCREAMING SOMETHING...
B-BUT A WHILE BACK WHEN HE CAME TO OUR HOUSE...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, BUT DID YOU ASK HIM ABOUT IT?
.... I DON'T THINK THAT'S TRUE.

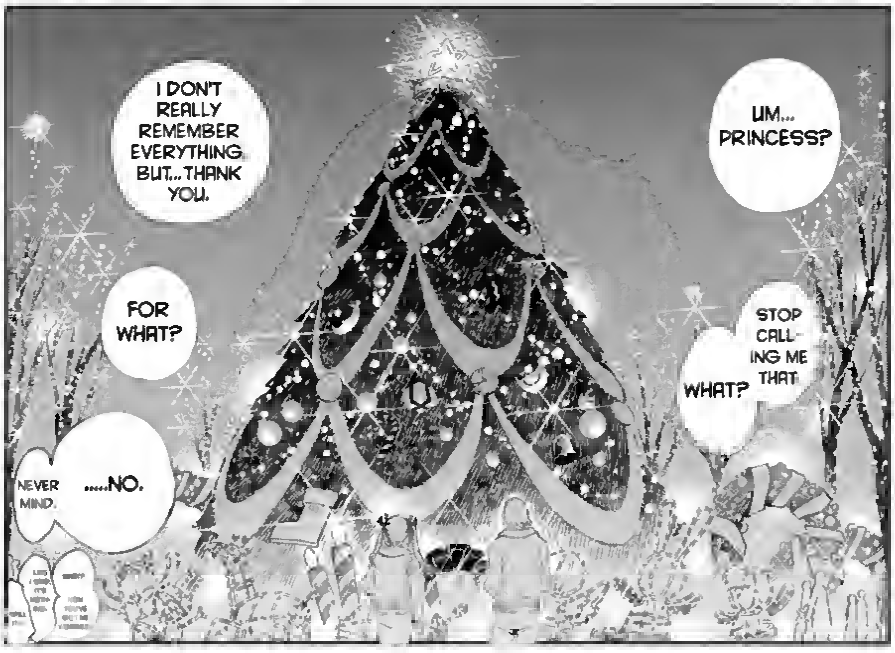
I THINK HE REALLY IS AN AWFUL HUMAN BEING, BUT...

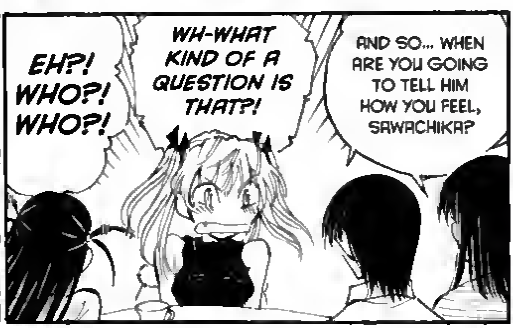
I THINK THERE'S LOGIC BEHIND THE THINGS HE DOES.


EVERY-THING YOU'VE THOUGHT UP TO NOW HAS BEEN MIS-TAKEN!
IT'S EXACTLY AS SHE SAID, TENMA-CHAN!
I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT GOOD WORK, PRIN-CESS!!
TMP
..... I...
HUH...? I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I THINK THE PRINCESS JUST DID ME A FAVOR...

GUSHARM
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, TENMA.
AKIRA-CHAN! YOU'RE LATE!!
WHEN YOU SAID YOU WERE MEETING SOMEONE, IT WAS AKIRA?!
HOLD ON!!
YOU CHOSE THIS PLACE ON PUR-POSE!!
WHAT PUR-POSE?


COM-PLETED ALL IN ONE DAY!
HMM! HAHA!


I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER EVERYTHING BUT... THANK YOU.
UM... PRINCESS?
FOR WHAT?
STOP CALL-ING ME THAT
WHAT?
NEVER MIND.
.....NO.



155 SHALL WE DANCE?

MEN, IT IS ALMOST CHRISTMAS
LET'S PEEL OFF OUR OUTER SKINS!! BANG!! LIKE FIREWORKS GOING OFF!!
WE SHOULD BE ENDING THIS YEAR WITH MORE ON OUR RESUMÉS THAN JUST THE SWIM-SUIT WRESTLING!
STILL, WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO PLAN ANYTHING.
DON'T GIVE UP NOW, NARA!!
I'M TALKING ABOUT OUR ATTITUDES!!
FORTY PERCENT OF JAPANESE HAVE PHIMOSIS.
IT'S NOTHING TO BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT.
IT'S HARRY AND TÔGÔ?
FROM CLASS 2-D!
HM?
KYA HA HA HA!
まぁはははは

HEH... I'M AFRAID YOU'LL SIMPLY HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE EVENT.
HONESTLY! YOU'RE ALWAYS TEASING US! ♥
WHY YOU NOT ASK MY PARTNER, HERE?
HEY GUYS, WHAT KIND OF PARTY ARE YOU GOING TO THROW ON CHRISTMAS EVE?
Y-YOU JERK!!
THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN DO ANYTHING COOL LIKE HARRY DOES..
LIKE I SAID, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
KH...!
WE'RE MEN, SAME AS THEM! IF THEY CAN DO IT, THEN WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO!!
I HONOR YOU FOR DISCOVERING YOUR OWN WEAKNESS! AND I STAND READY TO ADVISE!
IF YOU WISH TO AVOID THAT, THEN RECKLESSLY RUN TOWARD YOUR FUTURE! RECKLESSLY!!
WHEN A MAN STOPS WALKING HIS PATH, THE ONLY THING WAITING FOR HIM IS DEATH!
WELL SAID, BOY!
GRIMP
ガシ

SO, WHAT WERE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
TÔGÔ... YOU'RE...
...NOT SO BAD A GUY AFTER ALL...!
I UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING NOW.
I SEE.
AND THE ONLY RULE IS THAT THE MEN I INVITE MUST BE CERTIFIED BY ME AS MANLY!
I AM HOLDING A DANCE PARTY AT MY HOUSE TOMORROW!
...IF YOU ARE TRUE MEN OR NOT!!
INDEED I, TÔGÔ, WILL NOW TEST YOU TO FIND OUT...
DON'T GET AHEAD OF YOURSELVES. AS OF NOW, I DON'T SEE YOU AS FULL-FLEDGED MEN. IF YOU WANT TO COME TO THE PARTY...
...YOU MUST ENFLAME MY HEART WITH YOUR MANLINESS!
ADIOS!
EH ...?!
...WE REALLY CAN COME?!
TH-THEN...

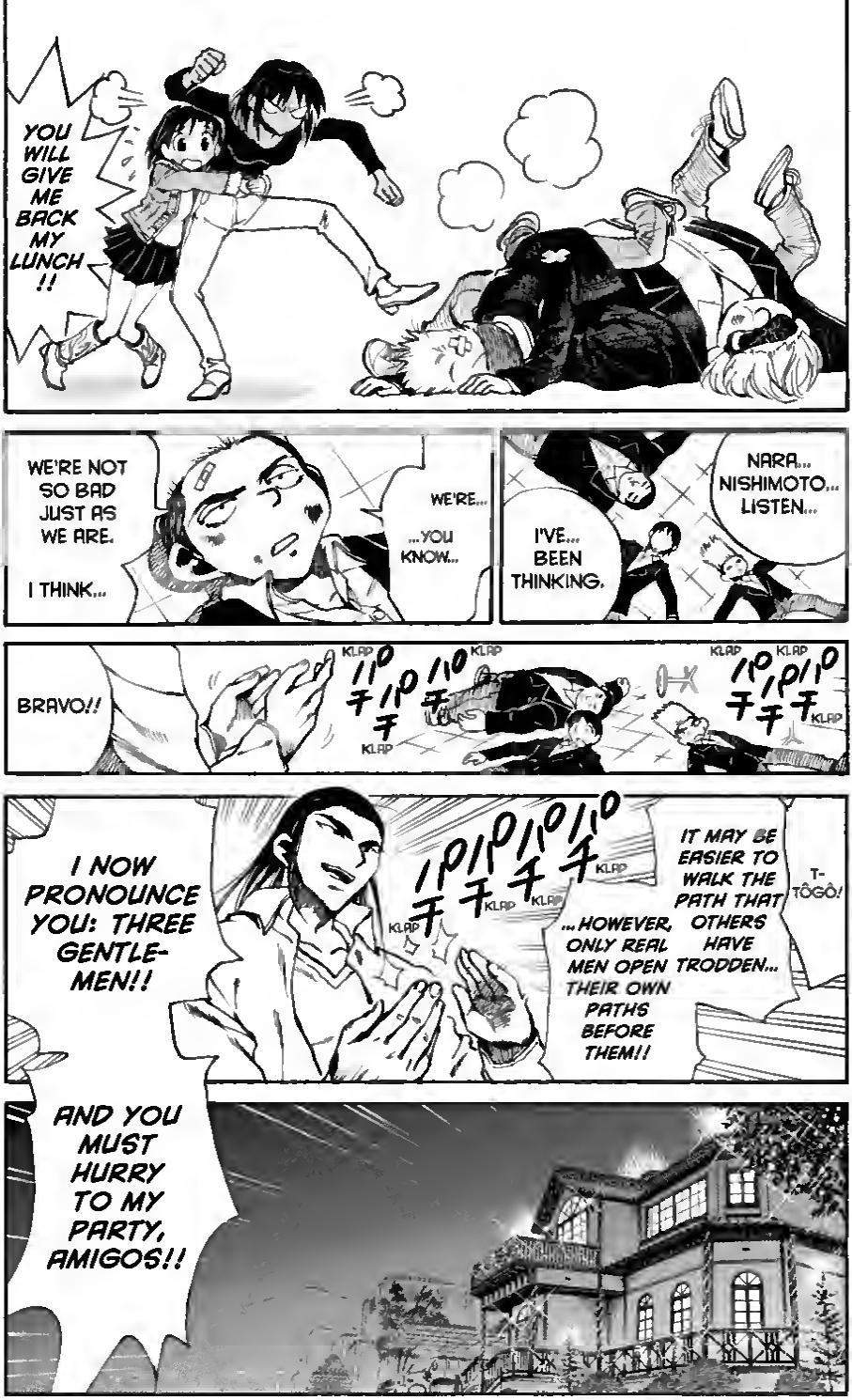
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!!
BUT ISN'T THAT WASTING OUR BIG CHANCE?
..... EH? YOU WON'T DO IT?
I WILL TAKE AN EXTRA MINUTE TO PRAY FOR YOU—
...BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M GOING TO DIE DURING CHRISTMAS...
ALLOW ME TO READ YOUR PALM!
MAYBE I DON'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND...
SHOVE OFF!
EXCUSE ME, IF YOU FILL OUT THIS FORM, WE'LL...
WHO DOES THAT MACARONI JERK THINK HE IS?!
N-NO, BUT THIS IS THE TIME WHEN ONE NEEDS TO PLUG THE HOLES IN ONE'S DRIED-UP HEART AND—
IT AIN'T DRIED UP!!
DO I LOOK LIKE I NEED YOUR PITY?!
YOU CREEP!!
DAMMIT, THEY KEEP COMING ONE AFTER THE OTHER!!
THEN I'LL SHOW TÔGÔ!!
I'M GOING TO BE REBORN AS A REAL HUNK!
YOSHIDAYAMA-KUN!!
THAT DID IT!!
KH ...!
WAS BA
THE NEXT DAY AT WAS BURGER.
R-RIGHT!
ROGER-DASU.
THEN WE MEET TOMORROW AT WAS BURGER!!
YOU GUYS CHANGE YOURSELVES INTO REAL MEN, TOO!

!!
HEY, NISHIMOTO! THERE ARE LIMITS TO HOW BRAZEN YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE!
DASH.
WH-WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? HE'S COOL!
WHY ARE YOU GUYS ALL DRESSED UP AS HARRY?
LOOKS ALONE WON'T PUT YOU IN OUR LEAGUE!!
HOWEVER, YOU HAVE ALL MADE A FATAL ERROR!
HEH. AS EXPECTED, YOU COME TO THIS CONCLUSION.
WELL, I KNOW THAT HARRY-KUN IS PRETTY GOOD AT CHESS.
SO NOW HE'S SAYING WE HAVE TO BE LIKE HIM ON THE INSIDE, TOO?!
BUT HOW?!
HUUH?!
TÔGÔ!

Harry: Three Votes. Tôgô: None.

YOU NEEDN'T SAY IT EVERY TIME.
CHECK.
TONK
CHECK.
TONK
CHECK.
TONK
TONK
LET'S GO!!
RIGHT!
HE RIDES A MOTOR-CYCLE.
HM... WHAT ELSE?
BRRRRMMM!!
BRRRMMM!!
DASU.
TSK!
THAT'S THE WAY YOU TALK!!
CAN YOU IMITATE THE WAY HARRY TALKS?
HYUUUUU
ヒュ〜ン...
FLUTTER FLUTTER

SO YOU REALLY ARE AN IDIOT?
DAS.
ENGLISH! CAN YOU SPEAK ENGLISH?
AH, FORGIVE. BUT THAT FRENCH FRY WAS SOON INTERFERE WITH YOUR BEAUTY.
MUNCH
HWIP
AH!!
B-BUT THE ONLY THING WE CAN DO IS TRY IT FOR OURSELVES!!
ARE YOU KIDDING?! WHAT KIND OF MAGIC IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE?!
KYAA!
I JOKE, OF COURSE.
HAHAHA
OH, GAWD!
A-AMAZ-ING!
KYAA!
FORGIVE THE FRENCH FRIES, BUT WE--!!
MUNCH
GRRRR
GRRRR
GIRL, YOU'RE THE ONE WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!!
?!
HERE'S YOUR WAS SET, MA'AM!


YOU WILL GIVE ME BACK MY LUNCH!!
WE'RE NOT SO BAD JUST AS WE ARE.
I THINK...
WE'RE...
...YOU KNOW...
I'VE... BEEN THINKING.
NARA... NISHIMOTO... LISTEN...
BRAVO!!
KLAP
I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU: THREE GENTLE-MEN!!
...HOWEVER, ONLY REAL MEN OPEN THEIR OWN PATHS BEFORE THEM!!
IT MAY BE EASIER TO WALK THE PATH THAT OTHERS HAVE TRODDEN...
T-TÔGÔ!
AND YOU MUST HURRY TO MY PARTY, AMIGOS!!

I THINK I'M IN SOME KINDA DREAM!!
WHOA!!
TONIGHT WE TAKE "FUN" AND MAKE IT OURS!!
NO! WE'VE BEEN BORN AGAIN!!
EHHHH?!
NOT MIND ME. STAY AND ENJOY TÔGÔ PARTY.
EH?! YOU'RE LEAVING, HARRY?!
FORGIVE. I HAVE URGENT ERRAND.
KRCHAK
KLIK
LET US ALL ENJOY THE PARTY FOR HARRY'S SAKE!
INDEED! EXACTLY AS HARRY SAYS!
JUST RELAX, MY BAMBINAS!

ガラーン
KASHIIING
HUH...?
AH...
I'M AFRAID ALL OF MY GUESTS HAD URGENT ERRANDS TO ATTEND.
COINCIDENCE CAN BE A FRIGHTENING THING.
HEH... IT IS AS YOU SEE IT, MEN.
.....
WOW...
WOW...
WOW!
H-HEY! THIS CRAP TASTES REALLY GREAT!!
.....

TH-THAT'S RIGHT!! WE CAN'T LET ALL OUR PRACTICE GO TO WASTE!!
THIS IS A DANCE PARTY! WE MUST DANCE!!
COME NOW, WHAT IS THIS?!
MUNCH
もぐもぐ
MUNCH
...BUT IT WAS FUN HANGING OUT IN OUR GROUP, YOSHIDAYAMA-KUN!
WELL, I MAY NOT HAVE GOTTEN CLOSE TO A GIRL THIS YEAR...
YEAH— MERRY CHRISTMAS

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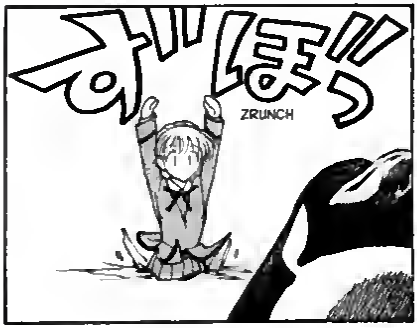
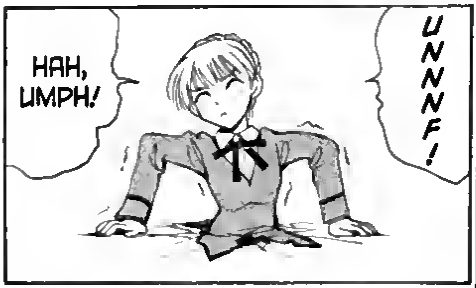
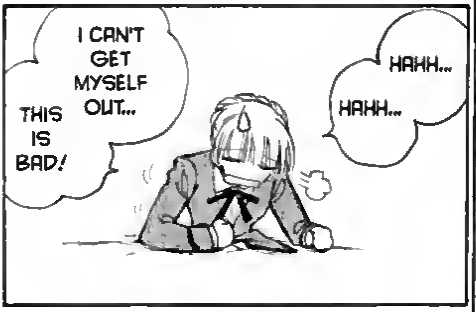
TAKANO-SEMPAI SUDDENLY ANNOUNCED THAT WE'RE GOING TO CLEAN THE CLUB-ROOM TODAY.
I WONDER WHAT LED TO THAT?
EH? NOBODY'S HERE...
GOOD MORN-ING!
AH! ANOTHER TEXT MES-SAGE FROM TAKANO-SEMPAI.
DON-DON DAH-DAAAH
"GOOD MORNING, SARAH. I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE IN THE CLUBROOM IN THE OLD SCHOOL-HOUSE."
"THERE IS A BIG MYS-TERY IN A CLASSROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR."
"A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS PRESENT AWAITS YOU THERE."
"NOW HURRY UP THERE."
EXCUSE ME! I'M COMING IN...
IS THIS THE ROOM?
THE SECOND FLOOR? BUT NOBODY EVER GOES UP THERE...

156 | LE TROU

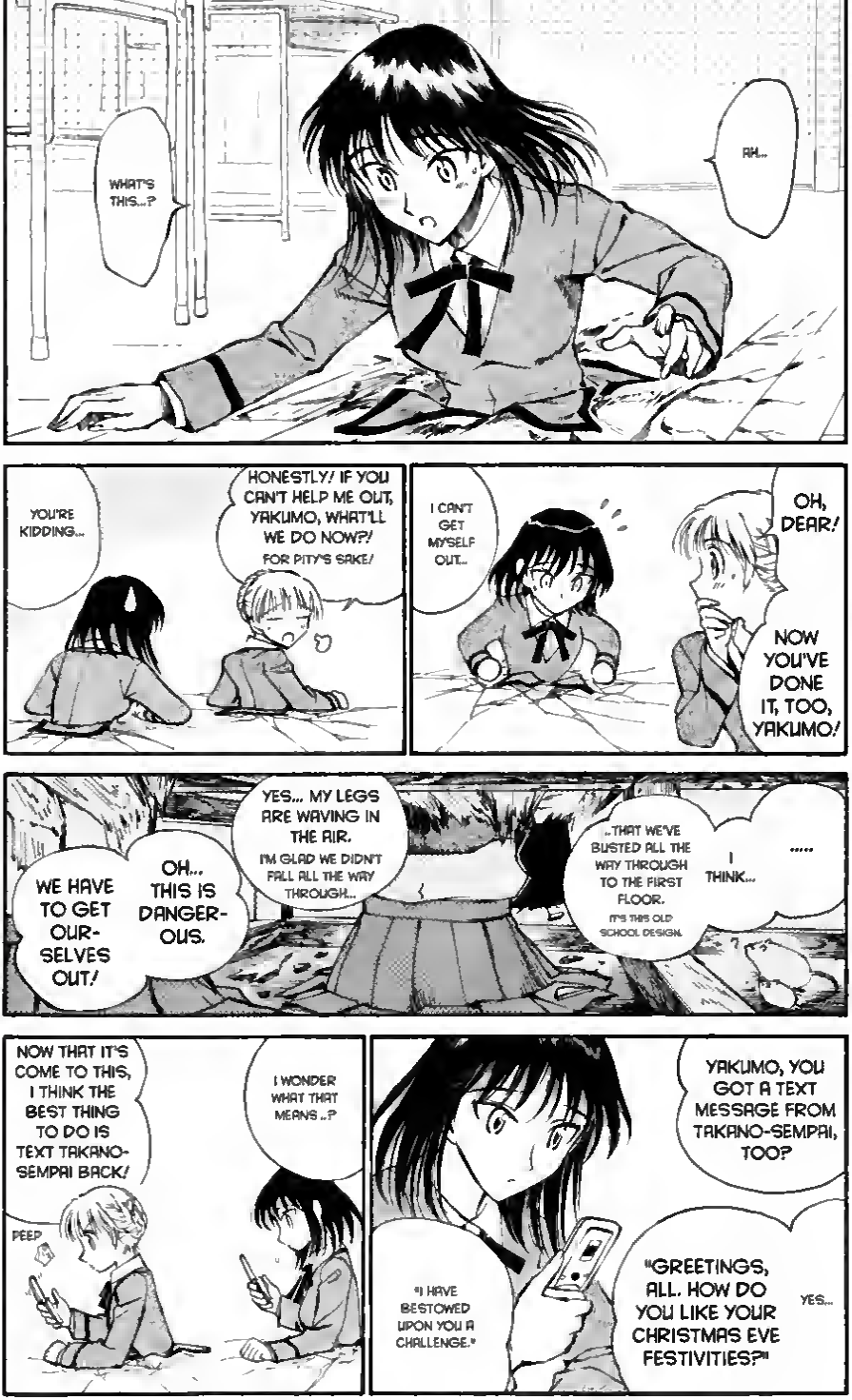






Sarah Adiemus: Member of the Tea Club.

HUSSSH
WH—
WHAT'LL I DO?
I'VE GOT NOON MASS TO GO TO!
SARAH...!
EH?
I GUESS THE BEST THING TO DO IS CONTACT YAKUMO.
I GUESS THE ONLY THING TO DO IS CALL SOMEONE TO HELP.
I'M GLAD I'VE GOT A CELL PHONE!
AH! STOP!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YAKUMO!
SARAH, YOU WERE CALLED BY TAKANO-SEMPAI, TOO?
ZRUNCH

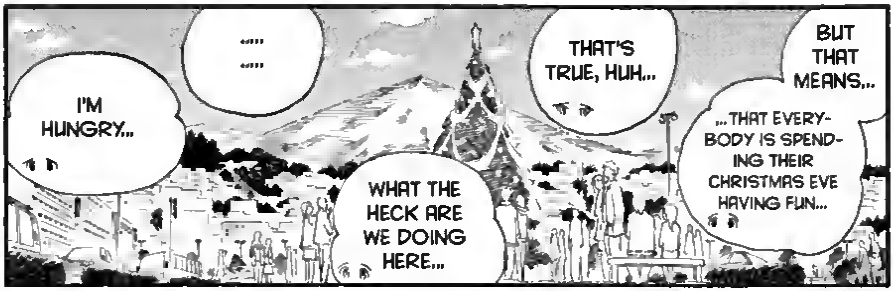

WHAT'S THIS...?
AH...
YOU'RE KIDDING...
HONESTLY! IF YOU CAN'T HELP ME OUT, YAKUMO, WHAT'LL WE DO NOW?!
FOR PITY'S SAKE!
I CAN'T GET MYSELF OUT...
OH, DEAR!
NOW YOU'VE DONE IT, TOO, YAKUMO!
WE HAVE TO GET OUR-SELVES OUT!
OH... THIS IS DANGER-OUS.
YES... MY LEGS ARE WAVING IN THE AIR.
I'M GLAD WE DIDN'T FALL ALL THE WAY THROUGH...
..THAT WE'VE BUSTED ALL THE WAY THROUGH TO THE FIRST FLOOR.
IT'S THIS OLD SCHOOL DESIGN.
I THINK...
.....
NOW THAT IT'S COME TO THIS, I THINK THE BEST THING TO DO IS TEXT TAKANO-SEMPAI BACK!
PEEP
I WONDER WHAT THAT MEANS..?
YAKUMO, YOU GOT A TEXT MESSAGE FROM TAKANO-SEMPAI, TOO?
"I HAVE BESTOWED UPON YOU A CHALLENGE."
"GREETINGS, ALL. HOW DO YOU LIKE YOUR CHRISTMAS EVE FESTIVITIES?"
YES...

!!
PERORIRARA
ヒョロリラ～
ブンチャカ ブンチャカ
BUNCHAKA BUNCHAKA
PEEP
PEEP
PEEP
I'M SURE SEMPAI WILL KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON!
TAKANO-SEMPAI...?
WHAT?
.....
.....
THIS...IS MY CHALLENGE TO YOU! YOU MUST FIGURE A WAY TO GET OUT OF HERE. LET THE CHALLENGE BEGIN!
くるっぽー
IS THAT SO...?
UM... IN OTHER WORDS...
...YOU CAME HERE FOR FUN DRESSED UP IN A PENGUIN COSTUME, AND...
...STUPIDLY GOT INTO THIS FIX...
...AND YOU'VE BEEN HERE EVER SINCE.
..... WHAT ARE...
YOU KNOW, THE EMPEROR PENGUIN ...
...KEEPS ITS EYES ON THE SUN NO MATTER HOW HUNGRY IT MAY GET. IT LEADS A SAD EXISTENCE.

U-UM... EXCUSE ME, BUT...
I-I'M IN A SITUATION THAT'S REALLY HARD TO EXPLAIN...
HELLO?
YAKUMO? WHAT ARE YOU DOING RIGHT NOW?
WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?
AH/
IT'S NEE-SAN.
EH? ARE YOU?!
AND I'M IN A LITTLE BIT OF TROUBLE...
AND ..
ACTUALLY I'M IN THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE ON THE SECOND FLOOR...
I'M PRETTY CLOSE NOW, SO I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!
SEE YOU!!
KACHIK
.. NEE-SAN/ WAIT UNTIL I'VE FINISHED...
AH...
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, YAKU-MO!
B-BUT I'M SURE ONCE SHE SEES THE SITUATION...
SHUMP
.....!
SEMPAI/ YOU MUSTN'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT!!
I HAVE A SUDDEN PREMONITION OF A FALL.
Y-YES...
SO TSUKA-MOTO-SEMPAI IS COMING?
KACHIK

AH!!
IT'S A PEN-GUIN!!
LOOKEE HERE!!
ZRUNCH
ズボン
. AND ONCE I'VE EXPLAINED IT..
GWAHHH!!
.....
.....
!
.....
.....
!!
HOW'S A PERSON SUP-POSED TO SIZE THIS UP SO QUICKLY?!
YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME ABOUT IT FIRST!!
WELL, YOU ALL DID IT, TOO!!
NEE-SAN...
.....
IT TOOK NO MORE THAN A MOMENT.
.....
.....
POKRAN
JUST CONCEN-TRATE ON HIM! HE'LL BE HERE SOON FOR SURE!
WHEN YOU SAY, "THAT GUY"...
AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE, HE'S CER-TAIN TO COME!
EH?
I KNOW! YAKUMO! YOU CAN CALL ON THAT GUY!
IS THERE ANYBODY ELSE WE CAN RELY ON?
NOW WE REALLY NEED RESCUING.

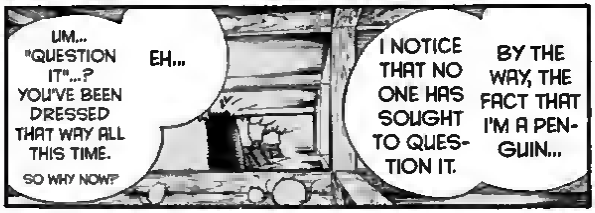
WHAT ARE YOU TWO TALKING ABOUT? THIS IS WEIRD!
Y-YOU REALLY WANT ME TO TRY THIS...?
IF YOU BELIEVE, IT'LL HAPPEN!! TRY IT, YAKUMO!
BUT...
BUT HOW DO I...
...
...
...
...
I HAVE THEM, TOO! I CAN BEND SPOONS!
I'M NOT GOOD AT IT, BUT...
EH...
WHAT'S GOING ON, YAKUMO? DO YOU HAVE PSYCHIC ABILITIES?!
EH?
NO, SARAH. THAT'S NORMAL.
NOW THAT'S ODD!
NO?!
...
HE'S NOT COMING.
MAYBE WE SHOULD CALL ERI-CHAN AND MIKO-CHAN?
SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
PSHHHHH
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
EH?
MAYBE THAT'S THE REASON HE COULDN'T GET HERE, HUH?
COME TO THINK OF IT, I HEARD HE WAS GETTING NEW GLASSES.
HANAI-SEMPAI.
EH?
HANAI-SEMPAI...?
I SEE... WELL, THAT RULES OUT CALLING THEM.
ERI IS AT A PARTY.
OF SOME SORT.
MIKOTO IS ON A DATE WITH ASÔ-KUN.

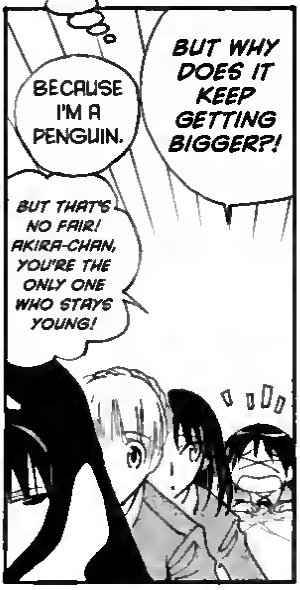

I'M HUNGRY...
.....
.....
WHAT THE HECK ARE WE DOING HERE...
THAT'S TRUE, HUH...
BUT THAT MEANS...
...THAT EVERYBODY IS SPENDING THEIR CHRISTMAS EVE HAVING FUN...

OLD-LADY SARAH-SAN!!
TH-THERE'S NO HOPE FOR MY AGED BODY ANYMORE!
DON'T EVEN THINK IT!! IF YOU FALL ASLEEP, YOU WON'T SURVIVE, OLD-LADY YAKUMO-SAN!!
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
HAHH

BWARN
BWARN
IF WE STAY LIKE THIS AND NOBODY COMES TO RESCUE US...

AND THEN... AND THEN, IN THE END...

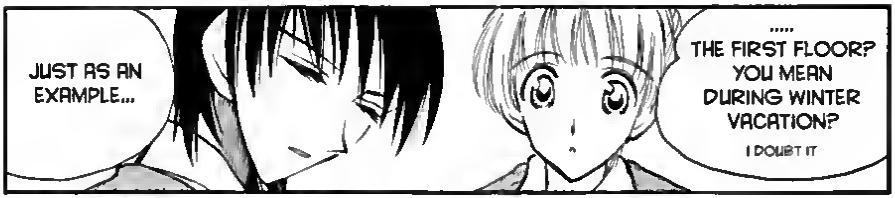

UM... "QUESTION IT"...? YOU'VE BEEN DRESSED THAT WAY ALL THIS TIME.
SO WHY NOW?
EH...
I NOTICE THAT NO ONE HAS SOUGHT TO QUESTION IT.
BY THE WAY, THE FACT THAT I'M A PENGUIN...

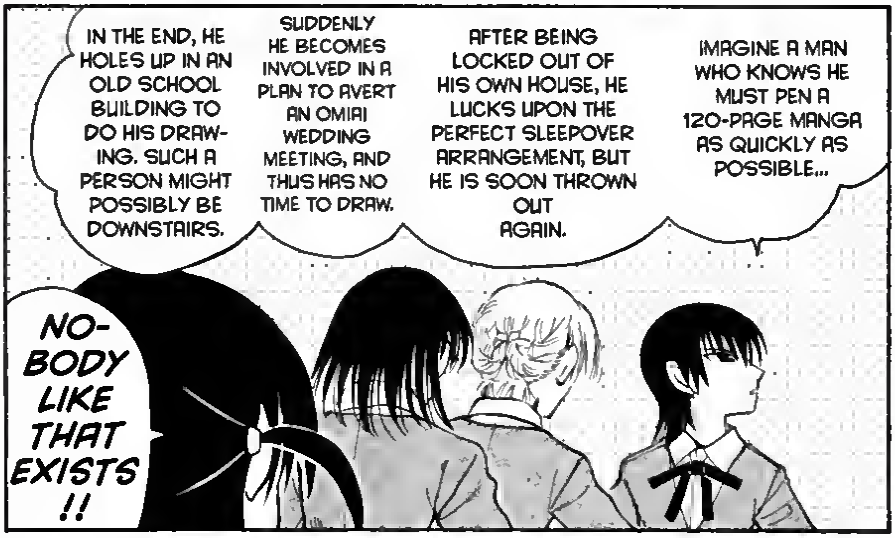

BUT WHY DOES IT KEEP GETTING BIGGER?!
BECAUSE I'M A PENGUIN.
BUT THAT'S NO FAIR! AKIRA-CHAN, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO STAYS YOUNG!

GWM
GWM
GWM
Y-YOU'RE KIDDING!!

MAYBE YOU WISH TO KNOW WHY I'VE BEEN WEARING THIS?
YOU UNDERESTIMATE ME.
ZZZZZIP

DM
AND THIS CAMERA HAS CAPTURED IT ALL!
A CHRISTMAS-ONLY RELEASE.
YOUR EMBARRASSMENT IS FAR TOO AMUSING.
SEMPAI! YOU COULD HAVE GOTTEN OUT FROM THE START?!
THIS WILL MAKE A SUPERB STORY!
...HAS BEEN DECIDED IN MY FAVOR!!
THIS GAME...
.....
YOU'RE MUCH CLOSER THAN BEFORE.
HUSSSH
ZRUNCH
KRAKK
STILL...
IF ANYONE HAPPENS TO ENTER THE SCHOOLROOM BELOW US, THEY'D CERTAINLY NOTICE.
YES. WE MAY HAVE TO PLAN TO GREET THE NEW YEAR IN THIS SITUATION.
THIS MEANS THAT THERE'S REALLY NOBODY OUT THERE TO HELP US NOW!
OH, NO...!


JUST AS AN EXAMPLE...
.....
THE FIRST FLOOR? YOU MEAN DURING WINTER VACATION?
I DOUBT IT


IN THE END, HE HOLES UP IN AN OLD SCHOOL BUILDING TO DO HIS DRAWING. SUCH A PERSON MIGHT POSSIBLY BE DOWNSTAIRS.
SUDDENLY HE BECOMES INVOLVED IN A PLAN TO AVERT AN OMIAI WEDDING MEETING, AND THUS HAS NO TIME TO DRAW.
AFTER BEING LOCKED OUT OF HIS OWN HOUSE, HE LUCKS UPON THE PERFECT SLEEPOVER ARRANGEMENT, BUT HE IS SOON THROWN OUT AGAIN.
IMAGINE A MAN WHO KNOWS HE MUST PEN A 120-PAGE MANGA AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE...
NOBODY LIKE THAT EXISTS!!

S—
SANTA-SAN?!
GM
GM
GM
GM
GM

YOU MEAN... NO, IT COULDN'T BE..

SHUMP
!!

AH...
ZUBOTCH
POKK
ZUBOTCH
POKK
BWAAA !!
BUT I WONDER WHO THAT SANTA-SAN WAS?
A GYM-NASTICS MAT. THAT CER-TAINLY HELPED.
WHUMPH
WHUMPH
AND CHRISTMAS EVE IS JUST STARTING!
THAT'S TRUE.
THE IMPORTANT PART IS THAT WE WERE RESCUED.
WELL, WE SHOULDN'T SWEAT THE DETAILS.
AWW! I KNOW I FELT YAKUMO-KUN'S PRES-ENCE AROUND HERE SOME-WHERE!
MEANWHILE, IN THE CLASSROOM NEXT DOOR...
NOW I'M GOING TO HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER PLACE TO DRAW!
..... DAM-MIT!
COSTUME USED TO KEEP TENMA FROM FINDING OUT (PROVIDED BY ONE OF HIS PART-TIME JOBS.)

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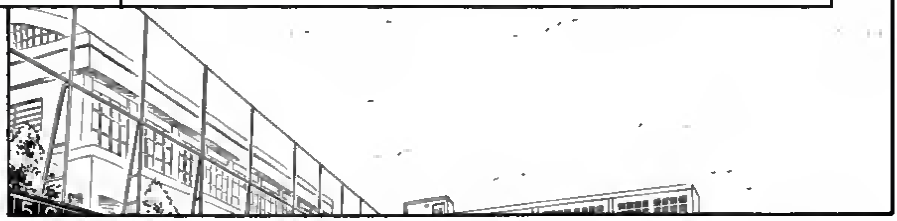
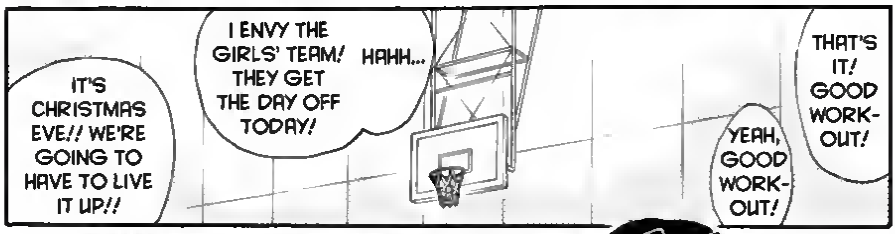
#157 THE PISTOL, THE BIRTH OF THE LEGEND




THAT'S IT! GOOD WORK-OUT!
YEAH, GOOD WORK-OUT!
I ENVY THE GIRLS' TEAM! HAHH... THEY GET THE DAY OFF TODAY!
IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE!! WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO LIVE IT UP!!

SUGA!
HUH?
LET'S PLAY SOME ONE-ON-ONE.
EH...?
ARE YOU SURE THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO DO?
DIDN'T YOU HAVE PLANS? WITH SUÔ...
NAH... I'VE LOST INTER-EST IN THAT...

SEVERAL DAYS EARLIER, AT THE HANAI DOJO...
YO, MIKOTO-CHAN!
HEY! LONG TIME, NO SEE!
AH! YOSHIDA-SAN! SAITÔ-SAN! IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME!!
MIKOTO-CHAN...
HEY! KÔZU-SEMPAI!
WHEN DID YOU GET BACK? HOW'S COLLEGE WORKING OUT?
.....
.....
OH, ASÔ.
OH, YEAH! THIS IS YOUR PLACE, HUH? I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU OUT OF UNIFORM AND WITHOUT YOUR GLASSES
HANAI?

See More About Mikoto and Kôzu in Volume 4.

HE'S RECENTLY SHOWED AN INTEREST IN MARTIAL ARTS.
GWIP
HE'S MY CLASSMATE!
WHA—?!
OH, I SEE!!
AH!
YOU MEAN ME?
HOW DO I PUT THIS...?
HUH? WHO'S THIS GUY?
MAYBE I SHOULD GIVE YOU A TRAINING SESSION, TOO.
.....
I'M NOT INTERESTED!
IT MAKES IT EASIER FOR YOU, RIGHT?
WELL, LET'S JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT.
.....
.....
SAITÔ-SAN, YOU NEVER CHANGE!
NO, YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG! YOU SEE, YOSHIDA WENT AND..
EHH?!
HEY! YOU PROMISED TO KEEP THAT TO YOURSELF!!
YOU REMEMBER HOW YOU LOOKED BACK THEN?
あはは
AH HA HA HA
GLUG GLUG GLUG
NO, I...
WHAT'S UP, ASÔ? IF YOU'RE HERE TO HELP, I'VE GOT IT COVERED.
YOU SHOULD BE MINGLING INSTEAD.
THEY'RE ALL REALLY NICE PEOPLE.

YEAH, I DID... BUT IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.
LAST SUMMER, MAYBE?
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT, ALL OF A SUDDEN?
HM?
I WAS SAY... WONDERING ABOUT YOU...
YOU GOT INTO A SERIOUS DUST-UP WITH HARIMA A WHILE BACK, DIDN'T YOU?
WHAT WAS BEHIND IT?
NOTH-ING...
..... !
IT WAS NOTHING MORE THAN ME FLYING OFF THE HANDLE.
I HAVE MY REGRETS OVER IT.

LISTEN ...
GIVE ME A PRACTICE SESSION.
I'VE CHANGED MY MIND.
AND WE'RE LOOKING FOR MIKO-CHAN'S FRIEND, TOO.
SAY, DAD? DO YOU KNOW WHERE HARUKI IS?
EH?
CHATTER
HAVE YOU SEEN MY FRIEND AND HARUKI?
AH! CHI-ZURU-SAN!
CHATTER
THEY WERE OVER THERE JUST A FEW MIN-UTES AGO.
HAVEN'T SEEN 'EM!
COME TO THINK OF IT, I THINK THEY WENT TO THE DOJO.
I'VE CHANGED MY MIND
I'M GOING TO GO FOR A WALK INSTEAD
ON YOUR WAY, COULD YOU PICK UP SOME TOFU FOR US?
.....

ZWRMM

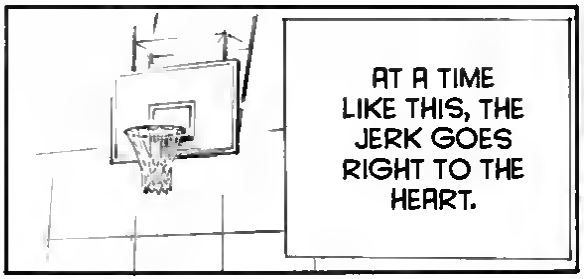
I SHOULD HAVE FIGURED, SINCE YOU'RE ON THE SPORTS TEAMS. YOU'RE BETTER MUSCLED THAN EITHER HARIMA OR IMADORI.
IF WE WERE PLAYING BASKETBALL, I'D BE THE ONE ON THE FLOOR.
HM.
YOU'VE GOT MUSCLES.
WHY AM I EVEN HERE...?
.....
DAMMIT...
NOW...
...LET'S CONTINUE THIS.

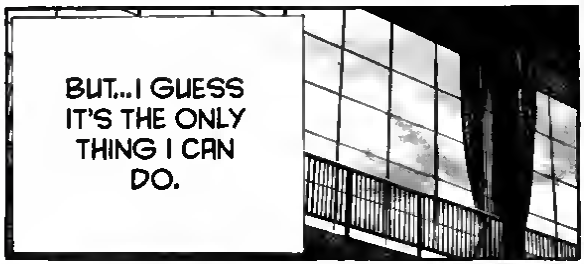
And the Story Comes Back to the Present Day.

I WONDER WHAT HE DOES AT TIMES LIKE THIS?
GRTCH
WE DON'T TALK ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT, SO I HAVE NO IDEA!
HUH?
GYRL
WHA—?!
THAT WAS A FEINT?
TMP
HUP!
FUMPH
TMP

DOOM
THAT'S IT!
GEEZ! RIGHT FROM THE START?
WHAT'S WITH YOU? TRYING TO SCORE POINTS LIKE THAT?
WAVER
LISTEN! I'M THE KIND OF GUY WHO DOESN'T SWEAT THE DETAILS.
IT'S JUST LIKE THAT POINT YOU PLAYED!
WHY DON'T YOU TRY TO WORK THE BALL SOME MORE?
WHEN THINGS DON'T GO RIGHT, YOUR WEAK POINT BECOMES OBVIOUS.
I SCORED ON YOU! WHAT'S THE HIGH-AND-MIGHTY TALK ABOUT?
THAT ISN'T WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!
LISTEN TO ME, ASÔ...
..... HUH?

WHAT MAKES YOU DISTINCTIVE IS THE WAY YOU CONSTANTLY DRIVE STRAIGHT AHEAD.
HUP


AT A TIME LIKE THIS, THE JERK GOES RIGHT TO THE HEART.

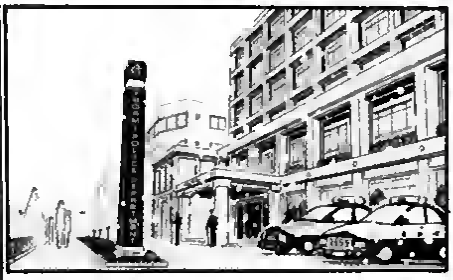

BUT...I GUESS IT'S THE ONLY THING I CAN DO.

RIGHT. HAVE FUN.
SHF
.....
I'LL SEE YOU LATER.

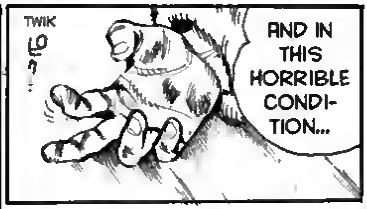
SUGA RYÛHEI (17). POSITION: CENTER. HIS RECORD FOR 2005: 0 POINTS, 1 ASSIST. STAY TUNED FOR HIS RECORD FOR 2006.
WHOA! THIS WEEK THEY'RE RUNNING THE PIN-UP IDOL, YASUDA MISAKO!!
YES, SIR! *YOUNG-GAMA* REALLY KNOWS WHAT TO GIVE A GUY FOR CHRISTMAS!
RELEASED TODAY!
NEW RELEASES

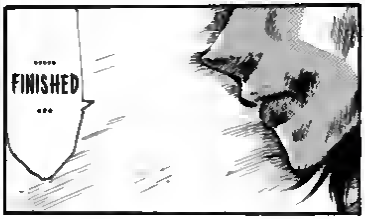
157 · · · · · · · · · Fin

Suga's 2005: The End.



SO TELL ME THAT YOU'VE COME TO YOUR SENSES.
I NEVER EXPECTED I'D FIND A SANTA PASSED OUT ON THE STREET ON CHRISTMAS/
OKAY, IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR YOU TO GO...
カチャ…
KACHIK



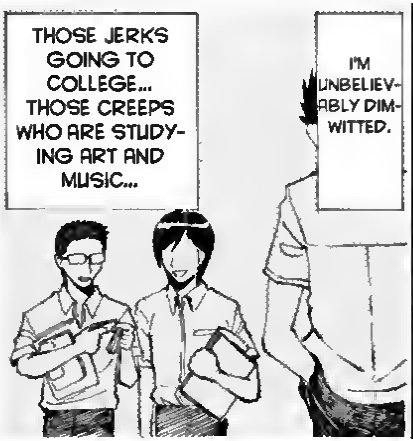


#158 THE SANTA CLAUSE

I'M FIN-ISHED...
...DRAW-ING MY PAGES.
IT ENDED UP BEING TWENTY PAGES, BUT...
ZHAT
HEY, YOU! WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO WITH THAT?!
HEH, HEH...
WHAT ELSE...? I'M GOING TO T-TENMA-CHAN'S...
WOBBLE
YOU WILL BE THE FIRST...!!
A LOT HAS HAPPENED...

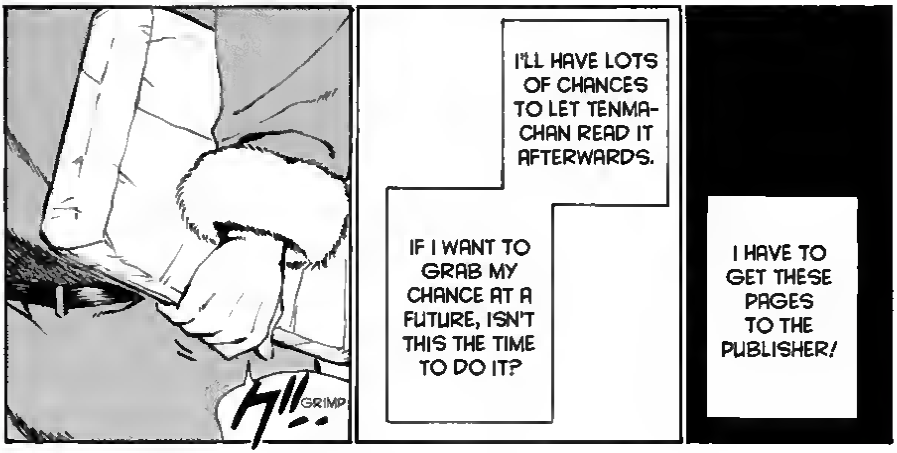
HELLO?
ピッ
PEEP
AH! IS THAT YOU, TAZAWA-KUN?
RRRING
ブルルル
RRRING
ブルルル
RRRING
ブルルル
RRRING
ブルルル
COME NOW! BRING THE PAGES HERE!
OH, THANK GOODNESS!
I WILL... BUT I NEED TO SHOW THEM TO SOMEONE FIRST...
DID YOU FINISH YOUR PAGES?
YEAH... JUST NOW...
NO! NO!! IF YOU DO THAT, WE'LL HAVE TO DROP YOU!!!
B-BUT... IT WILL ONLY BE A FEW MINUTES...
IT'S THE END OF THE YEAR, RIGHT? THE PRINTERS ARE SWAMPED, AND THEY HAVE NO TIME!
THE EDITOR IN CHIEF IS PLACING A LOT OF TRUST IN YOU! DON'T BETRAY HIM!!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! IF YOU DO THAT, IT WON'T MAKE THE MAGAZINE!!
EH...?
I'M NOT EXAGGERATING WHEN I SAY THAT YOUR ENTIRE FUTURE IS RESTING ON THOSE PAGES OF YOURS!!

YAGAMI GINZA SHOPPING PROMENADE
CHRISTMAS FAIR
...HE SAYS?
MY FUTURE...


THOSE JERKS GOING TO COLLEGE... THOSE CREEPS WHO ARE STUDYING ART AND MUSIC...
I'M UNBELIEVABLY DIMWITTED.

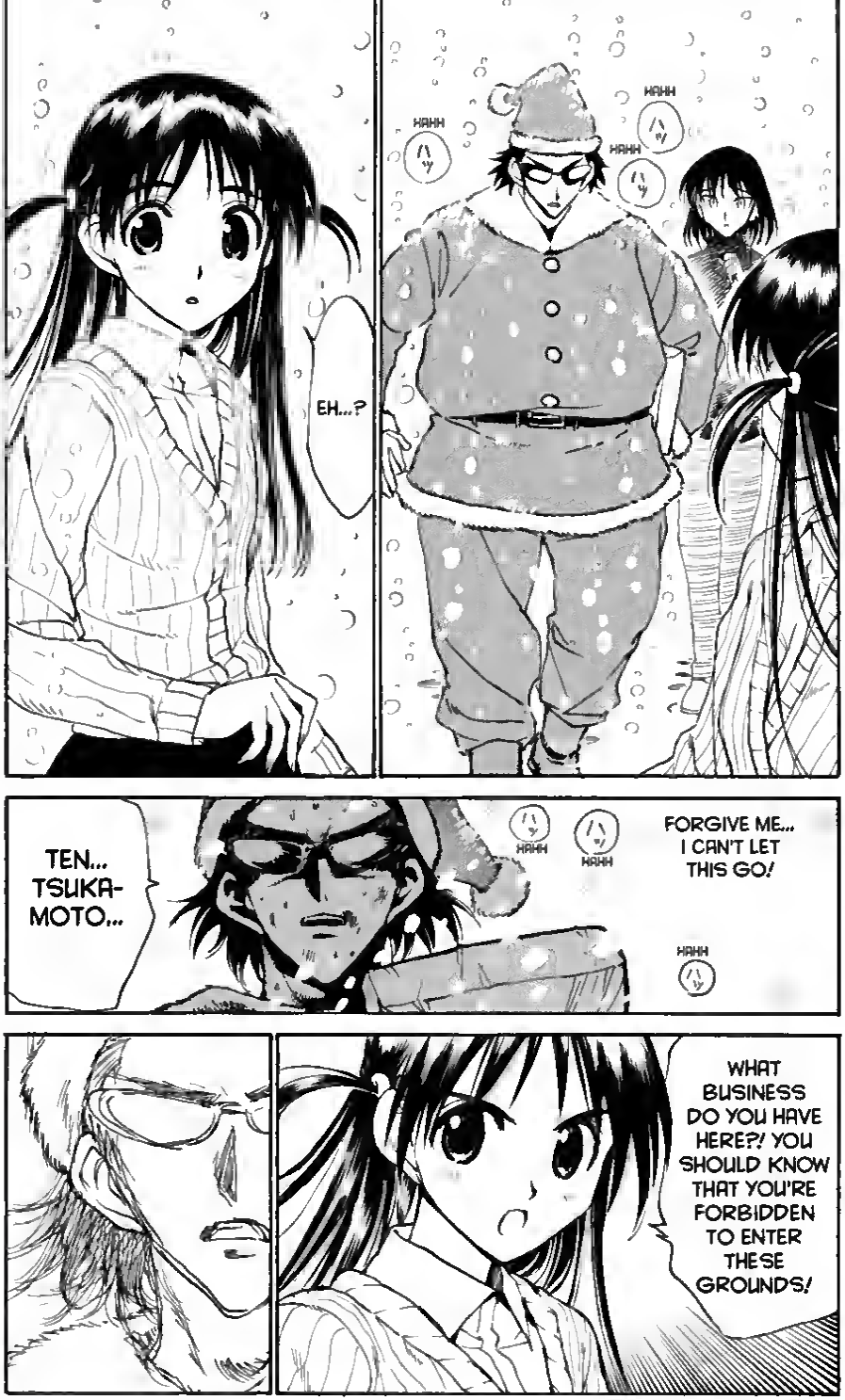
YOU MEAN ME?
DO I EVEN HAVE ONE?
I NEVER EVEN THOUGHT OF IT.
COME TO THINK OF IT, JUST WHY AM I DRAWING MANGA ANYWAY?

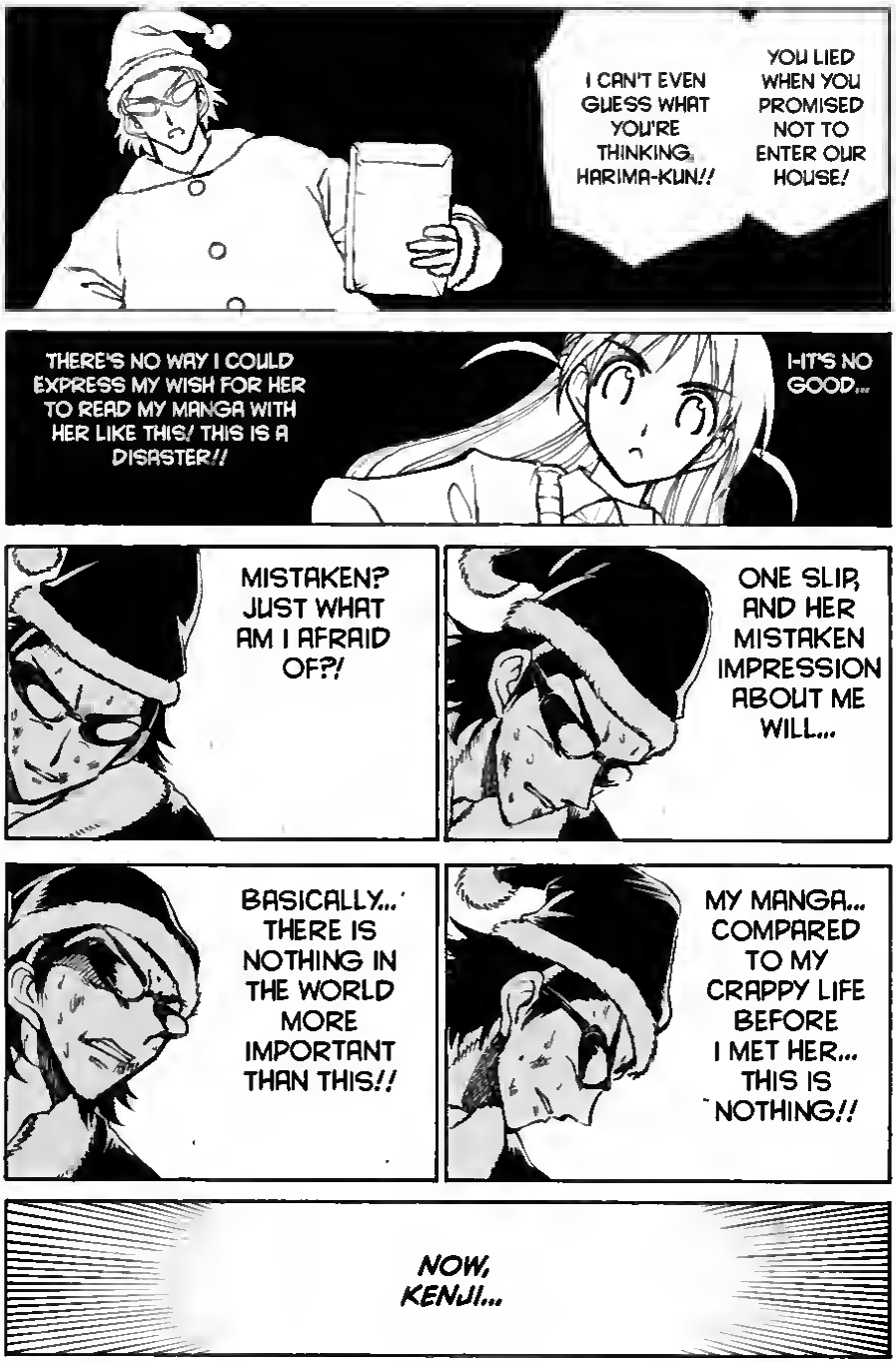
...LOOK AT ME OUT OF THE SIDES OF THEIR EYES AND THINK THAT I'M JUST GOING TO GO ROT!


GRIMP
I'LL HAVE LOTS OF CHANCES TO LET TENMA-CHAN READ IT AFTERWARDS.
IF I WANT TO GRAB MY CHANCE AT A FUTURE, ISN'T THIS THE TIME TO DO IT?
I HAVE TO GET THESE PAGES TO THE PUBLISHER!

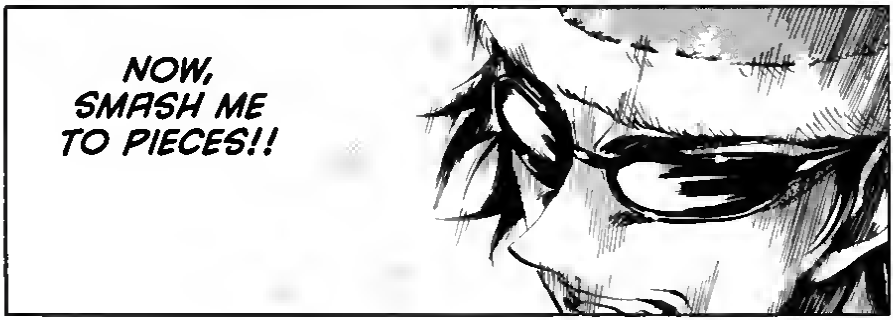
Tsukamoto Tenma: Right Now Making a Present for Karasuma. Just So You Know.

I'M SORRY, TENMA-CHAN!
SHF
FOR A MOMENT, I THOUGHT I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO IT, BUT I MADE IT IN TIME!
IT'S A LITTLE BIGGER THAN I PLANNED...
PHEW! ONE CURRY PLATE: FINISHED!
I HOPE KARA-SUMA-KUN WILL LIKE IT!
ゴロゴロ。。
ROLL
ROLL

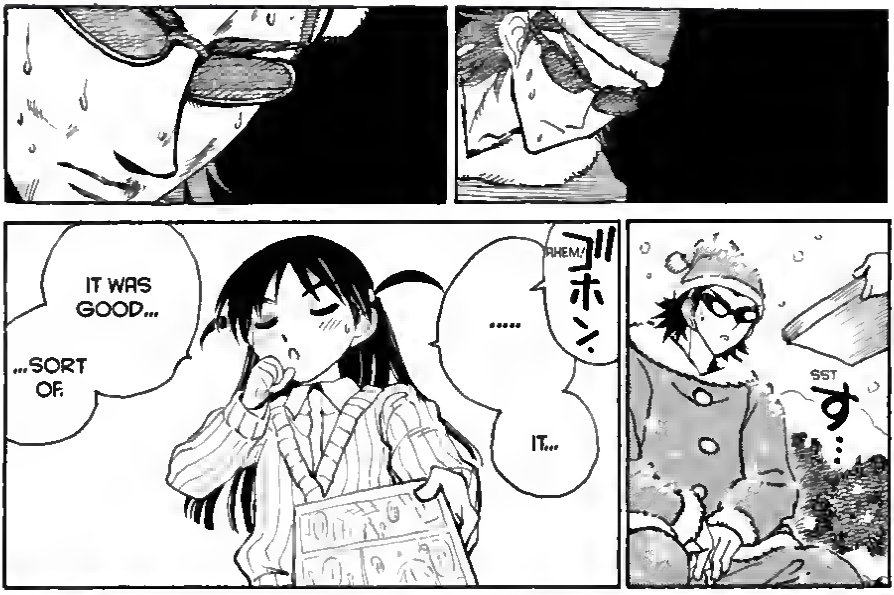

EH...?
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
HAHH
FORGIVE ME... I CAN'T LET THIS GO!
TEN... TSUKA-MOTO...
WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE HERE?! YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT YOU'RE FORBIDDEN TO ENTER THESE GROUNDS!


I CAN'T EVEN GUESS WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, HARIMA-KUN!!
YOU LIED WHEN YOU PROMISED NOT TO ENTER OUR HOUSE!
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD EXPRESS MY WISH FOR HER TO READ MY MANGA WITH HER LIKE THIS! THIS IS A DISASTER!!
I-IT'S NO GOOD...
MISTAKEN? JUST WHAT AM I AFRAID OF?!
ONE SLIP, AND HER MISTAKEN IMPRESSION ABOUT ME WILL...
BASICALLY... THERE IS NOTHING IN THE WORLD MORE IMPORTANT THAN THIS!!
MY MANGA... COMPARED TO MY CRAPPY LIFE BEFORE I MET HER... THIS IS NOTHING!!
NOW, KENJI...

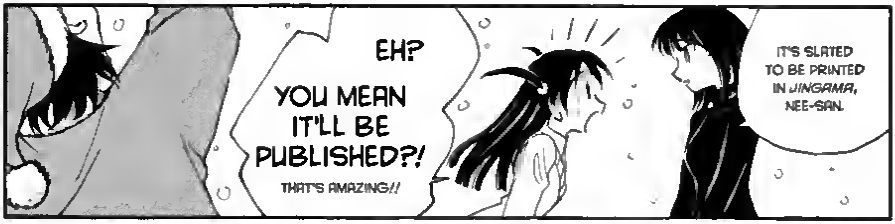
TSUKA-
MOTO...
A-
ACTUALLY,
I'M...
...DRAWING
MANGA!!


NOW,
SMASH ME
TO PIECES!!

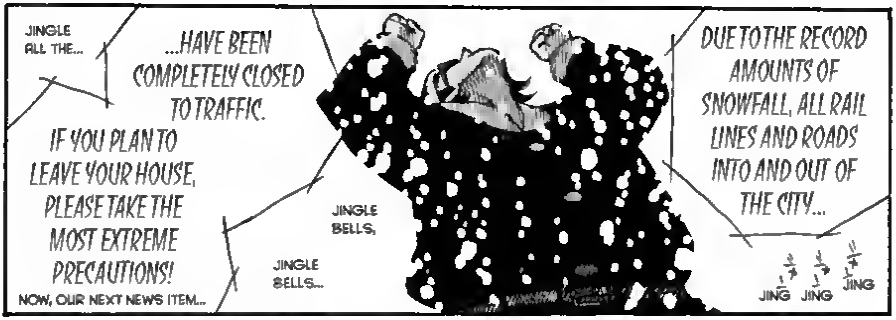
YOU LIAR!
ANYWAY, WHY TELL ME? IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME, RIGHT?
NO... I REALLY AM DRAWING MANGA!! SEE THIS?
EH...?
IT DOES! I MEAN... LITTLE SISTER-SAN HAS BEEN HELPING ME OUT A LOT!
IT'S GOTTA BE A LIE! NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT YOU, YOU'RE JUST NOT THE TYPE!
YAKUMO HAS?
..... YOU MEAN...
...IT'S TRUE?
NEE-SAN.
PLEASE READ IT..

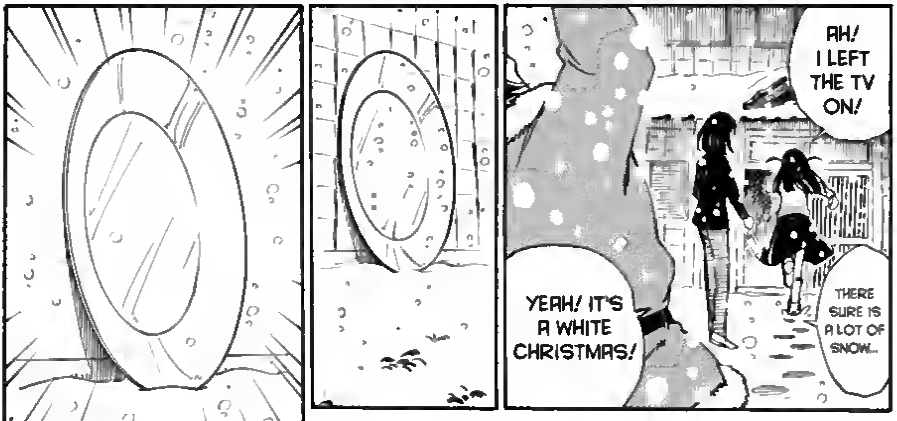

AHEM.
ゴホン!
.....
IT...
IT WAS GOOD...
...SORT OF.
SST
す…

ALL RIIIIIIIIGHT!!
FOR ME... EVEN FOR ME... SPRING HAS FINALLY COME!!
NOW I HAVE TO GET THESE PAGES TO JINGUJI!


EH?
YOU MEAN IT'LL BE PUBLISHED?!
THAT'S AMAZING!!
IT'S SLATED TO BE PRINTED IN JINGAMA, NEE-SAN.

I'M REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO READING IT IN THE MAGAZINE, HARIMA-KUN!!


JINGLE ALL THE...
...HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.
IF YOU PLAN TO LEAVE YOUR HOUSE, PLEASE TAKE THE MOST EXTREME PRECAUTIONS!
NOW, OUR NEXT NEWS ITEM...
JINGLE BELLS,
JINGLE BELLS...
DUE TO THE RECORD AMOUNTS OF SNOWFALL, ALL RAIL LINES AND ROADS INTO AND OUT OF THE CITY...
JING
JING
JING


AH! I LEFT THE TV ON!
YEAH! IT'S A WHITE CHRISTMAS!
THERE SURE IS A LOT OF SNOW...

DOOOM
SHAAAA
FOR TENMA!!
I WILL NOT FAIL TO GET IT IN ON TIME!!
⬇ TENMA'S CURRY PLATE.

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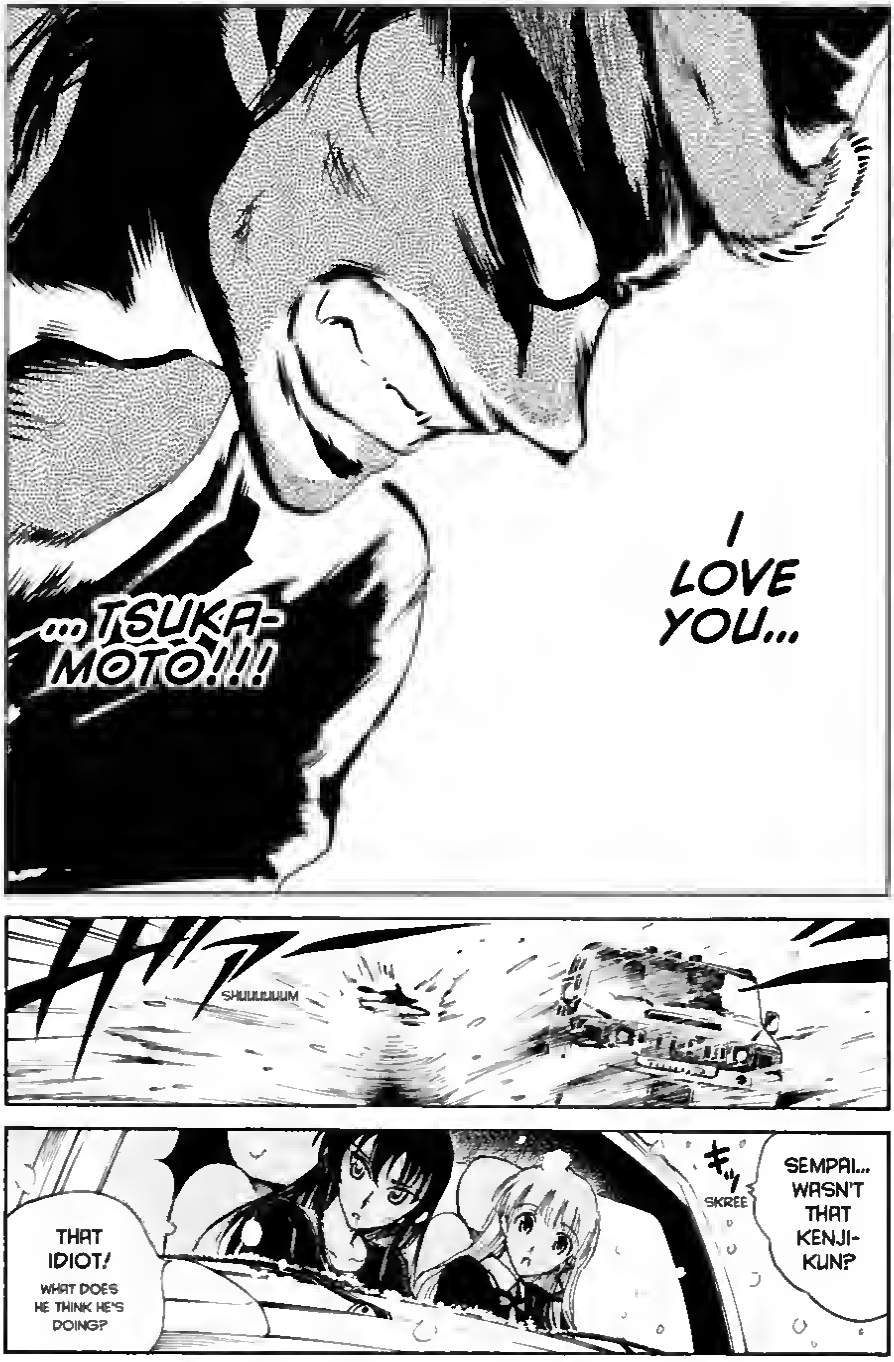
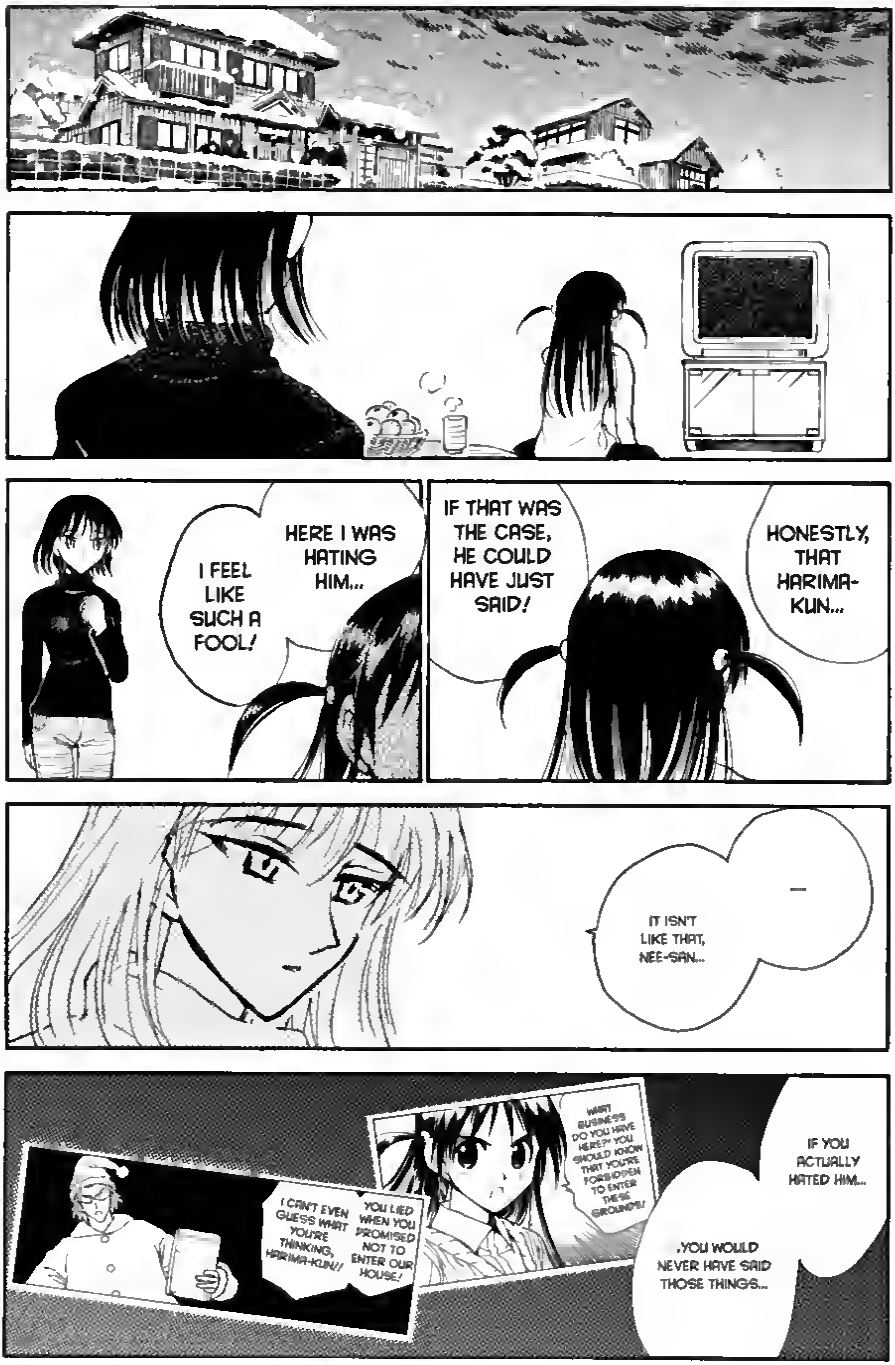
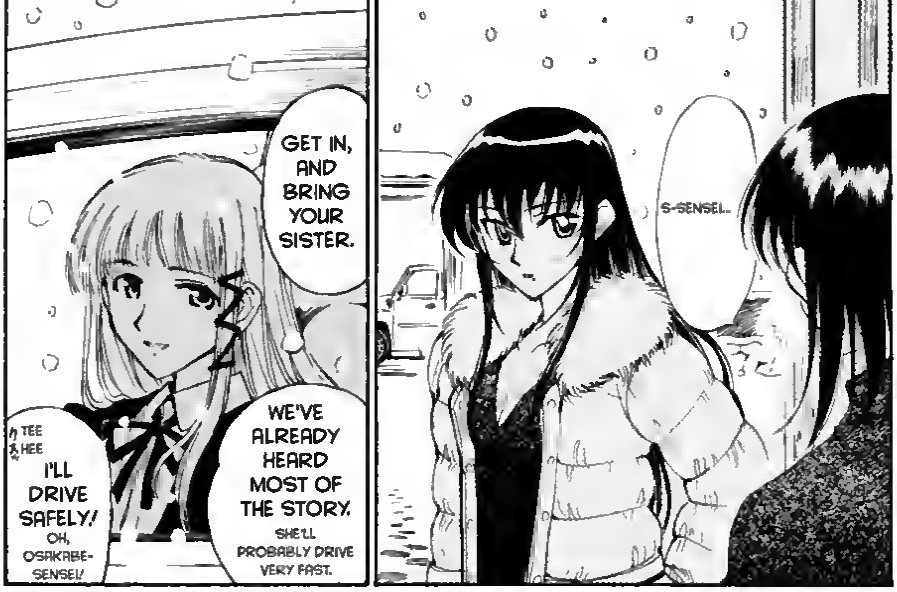
#159 JINGLE ALL THE WAY


I LOVE YOU...
...TSUKA-MOTO!!!
SHUUUUUUM
SEMPAI... WASN'T THAT KENJI-KUN?
キッ
SKREE
THAT IDIOT!
WHAT DOES HE THINK HE'S DOING?

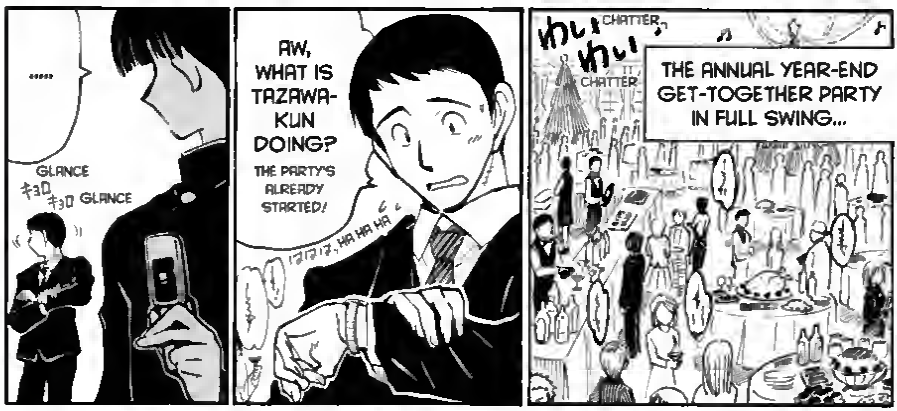

I FEEL LIKE SUCH A FOOL!
HERE I WAS HATING HIM...
IF THAT WAS THE CASE, HE COULD HAVE JUST SAID!
HONESTLY, THAT HARIMA-KUN...
—
IT ISN'T LIKE THAT, NEE-SAN...
I CAN'T EVEN GUESS WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, HARIMA-KUN!!
YOU LIED WHEN YOU PROMISED NOT TO ENTER OUR HOUSE!
WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE HERE? YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT YOU'RE FORBIDDEN TO ENTER THESE GROUNDS!
IF YOU ACTUALLY HATED HIM...
.YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE SAID THOSE THINGS...

BUT...
AND IT'S THOSE FALSE DISPLAYS THAT NORMAL PEOPLE DO THAT TURN OUR RELATIONSHIPS ALL TWISTED.
THAT'S WHAT ANY NORMAL PERSON WOULD HAVE DONE.
YOU WOULD HAVE SMILED AND SAID... "IS THAT SO, HARIMA-KUN? AH HA HA!"
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE FELT THE LEAST BIT EMBARRASSED.
TSUKAMOTO TENMA AND HARIMA KENJI NEVER DO THAT!
YOU MAY BE WORKING AT CROSS PURPOSES, BUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP IS COMPLETELY NATURAL!!
...IS WHAT I'M SURE HARIMA-KUN...
...IT'S THAT PART OF YOU...
NEE-SAN...

EH? CALM DOWN...
HARIMA-KUN DID WHAT?
HELLO?
OH, MIKO-CHAN...?
♪
...IS RIDING ON MY CURRY PLATE?!!
WHA-AAA—?! HARIMA-KUN...
...AND SHE SAID TO LEAVE EVERYTHING TO HER. I WONDER WHAT SHE'S THINKING OF DOING...
WHA...?
WHA...?
YEAH, I WAS COMPLETELY SHOCKED!
ANYWAY, I GOT THIS CALL FROM TAKANO...
PI-PI-PI-
PLIP
!
ピポーン
DING DONG
NEE-SAN!
こてん
WHUNK


GET IN, AND BRING YOUR SISTER.
S-SENSEI...
WE'VE ALREADY HEARD MOST OF THE STORY.
SHE'LL PROBABLY DRIVE VERY FAST.
TEE HEE
I'LL DRIVE SAFELY!
OH, OSAKABE-SENSEI!

DANKÔSHA...


.....
GLANCE
GLANCE
AW, WHAT IS TAZAWA-KUN DOING?
THE PARTY'S ALREADY STARTED!
HA HA HA
CHATTER
CHATTER
THE ANNUAL YEAR-END GET-TOGETHER PARTY IN FULL SWING...

It Really Is a Surprise Party, in a Manner of Speaking.

I CAN'T PRINT THIS!
WHA...
TAKE THEM AND GO HOME! NOW!!
ZHAT
GRATCH
WHAT DID YOU SAY, YOU JERK?!!
HUH...?!
IT SEEMS THEY'RE HERE.
?!
GRAHH!!
!!
JUST CALM DOWN.
I HEARD ALL ABOUT IT. FROM TAKANO.
IT'S YOU AGAIN !!

スタ
STP
スタ
STP
EH...?
カチャ
KLINK
カチャ
KLANK
カチャ
KAKLINK
すっ
SST
CURRY & SPOON FROM THE PARTY REFRESH-MENTS.
A BROKEN PIECE OF PLATE.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, KARASUMA-KUN!
IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN TSUKA-MOTO'S..
HAND-MADE PRES-ENT.
TH-THEN...
...THAT THING I RODE IN ON...

YOU HAVE SOME GOOD FRIENDS THERE.
THERE IS ONLY ONE PERSON IN THE WORLD WHO SHOULD READ THIS STORY.
MR. EDITOR IN CHIEF, THOSE PAGES...
YES... I CAN'T PRINT THEM.
SNIF
SNIF
TSUKA-MOTO...
SNIF
SNIF
I'M SORRY...
I'M SORRY...
TSUKAMOTO... I'M SORRY...
I'M SORRY...
SNIFF
HIC
HIC

Well, Anyway, Merry Christmas.

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HARIMA-KUN...
NOW WE CAN BE TOGETHER FOR ALWAYS!
OH, THANK GOOD-NESS, HARIMA-KUN...
WAIT FOR ME, PLEASE, HARIMA-KUN! DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THIS PLACE?
TENMA-CHAN...
WAIT A SECOND! DON'T THEY SAY THAT THE FIRST DREAM OF THE YEAR ALWAYS COMES TRUE?
COULD IT BE? THAT IN REALITY...?!
OH, GEEZ!! WHAT A DREAM TO HAVE!
ガバッ
GAMPH
WHOAAA!!
HEY, ITOKO! CONGRAT-ULATIONS ON THE NEW YEAR!!
LET'S MAKE THE BEST OF THIS YEAR, TOO.
OH, SHUT UP!
I HAVE TO GET TO A SHRINE FOR THE NEW YEAR'S OBSERVANCES AND MAKE A WISH!!
HEY GODS! I'M COUNTING ON YOU GUYS!!

#160 THE LION KING

WOW! IT'S PRETTY CROWDED, HUH?
YES. BE CAREFUL OF YOUR STEP, TSUKAMOTO-SAN.
CHATTER
CHATTER
BUSTLE
BUSTLE
KYAAAA! IS IT LEGAL TO BE SO HAPPY ON NEW YEAR'S DAY?
WHO'D HAVE DREAMED THAT I'D MAKE MY FIRST SHRINE VISIT OF THE YEAR WITH KARASUMA-KUN?! ♡
SHF
MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR

HEY, STOP THAT! WHAT IS THIS SUPPOSED TO MEAN?! THIS ISN'T WHAT I'VE BEEN LED TO BELIEVE, GODS!!
THIS "FIRST DREAM" STUFF IS A SHAM!!
GWOOGGH
フリフリニッコリ…
MY FAMILY BUSINESS HAS SOMETHING PLANNED FOR AFTER THE SHRINE VISIT.
WELL, THIS IS A LUCKY BREAK!
HEY, HARIMA!
I GET IT! THE MINUTE THE NEW YEAR BREAKS, HARIMA FORGETS ALL OF LAST YEAR'S DEBTS, HUH?
KH! THAT'S DIRTY, SUÔ!
HUH? WHY'RE YOU ASKING ME...
BUT SOMETHING'S COME UP, AND I CAN'T MAKE IT. COULD YOU STAND IN FOR ME?
HM?
"THE BEST OF THIS YEAR"! I HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO THAN...
DAMMIT! THAT JERK, SUÔ!
CHATTER
わいわい
CHATTER
H-HEY! WAIT A SECOND!!
OKAY, THANKS! DON'T LET ME DOWN!
OH, LET'S MAKE THE BEST OF THIS YEAR, TOO!

FSH
HUP!
I GET IT. IT ONLY WORKS WITH TWO PEOPLE.
THAT?
YRRY
YRRY
THE GUY IN THE BACK END HAS BEEN WRITING FOR ME, HUH?
SORRY. SUÔ SAID SHE COULDN'T MAKE IT..
FOR PITY'S SAKE, MIKOTO?! WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG?!
GAK ?!
WHOOSH
I NEVER HEARD ABOUT THIS!! AND YOU STOLE MY LINE!!
W-W-WAIT JUST A MINUTE!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

I SHOULD BE SAYING THAT! WHILE I'M WASTING MY TIME ON THIS, TENMA-CHAN AND KARASUMA COULD BE...
SHE DIDN'T GIVE ME A CHANCE TO BACK OUT!
I DON'T BELIEVE MIKOTO! WHY'D SHE PULL THIS STUNT ON ME THE FIRST THING OF THE YEAR?!
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE! THIS IS GREAT!
HOW DO THEY MAKE THIS THING GO?
YAAY
YAAY
WOW! THIS IS COOL!
NOPE! BUT MY MOM TOLD ME TO GO AND GET BITTEN.
HM? YOU GUYS HAVE NEVER SEEN A SHISHI-MAI?

Harima and Sawachika: Had an Eventful Year Together.

WE HAVE TO DO THIS UNTIL MIKOTO GETS BACK. HELP OUT!
TSK!
DON'T TALK LIKE YOU'RE THE BOSS, JERK!
CHATTER
CHATTER
PONN
BWOOON
YAAY
YAAY
HEY, YOU! COME OVER HERE AND BITE OUR HANDS!
JANGL
JANGL
JANGL
EHH?! THAT'S SCARY! I DON'T WANT IT TO TOUCH ME!
HEY, A SHISHI-MAI! NOW IT FEELS LIKE NEW YEAR'S!
WHAT IS WITH THIS NEW YEAR'S! AFTER I HAD SUCH A GOOD DREAM...
AWW... THERE ARE MORE CROWDS THAN EVER!

CHATTER
わ!!
CHATTER
WHA-?!
DAMMIT! I WANT TO RESCUE TENMA-CHAN FROM KARASUMA'S EVIL CLUTCHES, BUT WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE AROUND...
GWOOGGH
ゴォォ..!!
AH!!
KARASUMA-KUN, LOOK! IT'S A SHISHI-MAI!
しゃん
しゃんっ
JANGL
JANGL
THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT!!
GRAMPH
OH, MY! HARIMA-KUN...
I LOVE YOU!
And a love was born in the middle of the shishi-mai.
GRAMPH
HURRY!!
かぷ♡
OH!!
TH-THAT'S IT! WHEN I BITE TENMA, THE TWO OF US CAN SECRETLY...

THAT MEANS THAT YOU'LL HAVE GOOD THINGS HAPPEN TO YOU THIS YEAR, IMADORI-SAN!
YAAY! I'VE BEEN BITTEN!
GRUNCH
CHAKK
GRAAA
HARI...
HUH?
KYAA! IMADORI-SAN!
WHOOM
WHOOM
HEY, PRINCESS!
HM?
N-NO!! THEY'RE ALREADY LEAVING THE SHRINE GROUNDS!! I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!!
YEAH, AND THE GUY GETTING BITTEN IS PLAYING HIS PART REALLY WELL, TOO!
THE SHISHI-MAI THIS YEAR IS PUTTING ON QUITE A DISPLAY.

RIGHT! IT'S ALL DECIDED! LET'S GO!
I-IS THAT RIGHT? W-WELL IF IT'S BEST TO DO THAT, THEN...
WE'VE LEFT THE SHRINE PEOPLE HAPPY. NOW LET'S TAKE TO THE STREETS FOR A WHILE.
THIS YEAR, THE SHISHI-MAI IS SUPPOSED TO GO THROUGH THE STREETS OF THE TOWN, TOO!
coffee
OH, I'M SICK OF COFFEE! WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?
I DON'T KNOW. THE GAME CENTER IS TOO CROWDED TODAY
SAY, HONEY, WHAT CLOTHING STORE SHOULD WE HIT NEXT?
I'D SAY YOU'VE BOUGHT TOO MUCH ALREADY!
KEN-CHAN! DON'T EVEN LOOK AT IT!
.....
CHATTER
CHATTER
HEY, BEARD! IS THIS REALLY WHERE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
KAFF
KOFF
KOFF
SLURP
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME, BEARD..?

LAST YEAR, I WATCHED THE FIREWORKS FROM HERE WITH THE WHOLE GANG.
WHAT A PRETTY SUNSET...!
TSUKA-MOTO-SAN...
HM? WHAT IS IT, KARA-SUMA-KUN?
DAMN THAT KARASUMA JERK! IS THIS WHERE HE MAKES HIS MOVE?!
WAIT...
SHFF
ガサ…

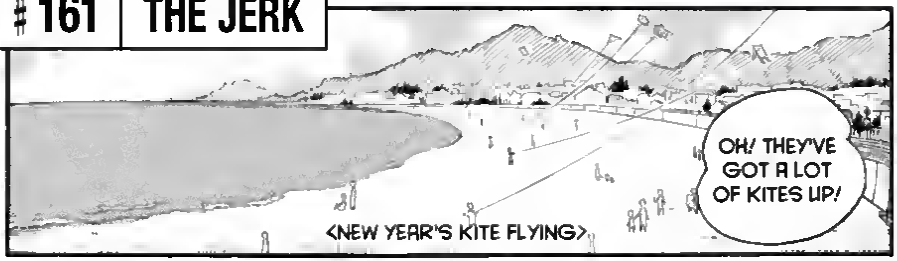
GISHING
PREPARE TO BE EATEN !!
YOU THINK I'LL ALLOW THAT?!
PITARA

SORRY. REALLY, I'M SORRY...
HOW MANY TIMES DO I GOTTA APOLOGIZE.
FOR PITY'S SAKE! WHY DO I HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS?!
..... YOU'VE SAID ENOUGH...
YEAH.
... ANYWAY, LET'S MORE OR LESS MAKE THE BEST OF THIS YEAR.

First Dream: Not Very Close to Reality.

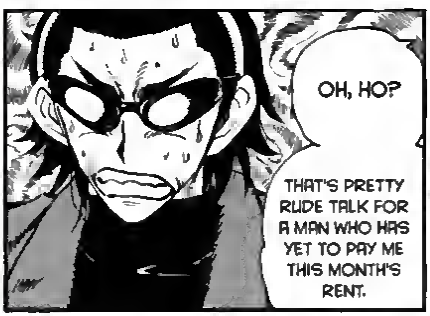
160 · · · · · · · · · Fin

#161 THE JERK

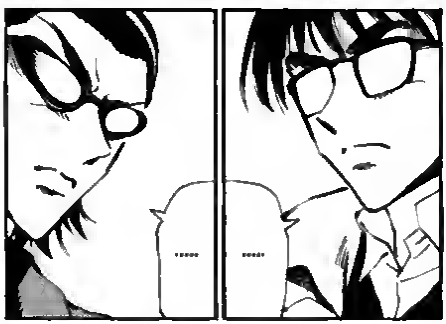

OH! THEY'VE GOT A LOT OF KITES UP!
<NEW YEAR'S KITE FLYING>

I CAN'T LAUNCH THIS PARTICULAR KITE BY MYSELF.
I BELIEVE IT WILL STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD AND BE A BOON TO THE SCHOOL'S HONOR. IT WILL CERTAINLY DO TOGO-KUN'S KITE ONE BETTER.
I SEE... VERY WELL. I'LL HELP

SAY, I'D LIKE TO JOIN IN THE KITE FLYING. COULD YOU HELP ME OUT?
HM? YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO LAUNCH A KITE WITH NO PROBLEM.


OH, HO?
THAT'S PRETTY RUDE TALK FOR A MAN WHO HAS YET TO PAY ME THIS MONTH'S RENT.

WHAT? I'M NOT HELPING YOU WITH ANYTHING!
HEY, KENJI-KUN!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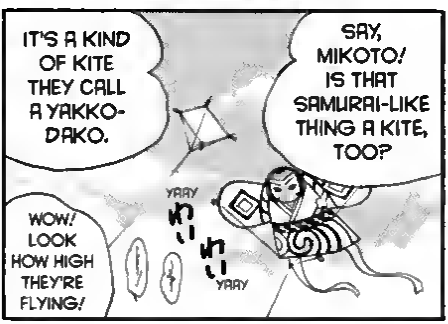

IT'S A KIND OF KITE THEY CALL A YAKKO-DAKO.
SAY, MIKOTO! IS THAT SAMURAI-LIKE THING A KITE, TOO?
WOW! LOOK HOW HIGH THEY'RE FLYING!
YAAY
YAAY

ヒョオオー
HYUUUU
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS...
THEY REALLY ARE HIGH UP!
A PRETTY IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY THIS YEAR.
THAT'S AMAZING! HARIMA-KUN AND HANAI-KUN ARE DOING BATTLING KITES!!
TSK! DON'T EVEN THINK OF PLAYING OUT THOSE WOMEN'S SCRIPT!
YOU'RE AS THICKHEADED AS YOU EVER WERE, GLASSES!
THIS IS FINE WITH ME! I INTENDED TO SETTLE ACCOUNTS WITH YOU THIS YEAR ANYWAY!
GM
GM
GM
YOU LITTLE...
HEY, THIS TIME IT WAS TAKANO-KUN DOING IT!
DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY!
VWOOM
バキ
KRAKK
AH!
GWIP

Is It a Bird?! Is It a Plane?! No, It's the Idiot Pair.

GWAAH!
GATCH
YOU SUCKER-PUNCHED ME, YOU JERK!!
OHH! AND HE GETS IN A KICK!!
THAT TAKES REAL BALANCE!
A TRUE VERSION OF THE BATTLING KITES!!
IT'S AN AMAZING MIDAIR BATTLE!
CHATTER
CHATTER
KRACK
BIFF
KAKK
I'M NOT LOSING THIS FIGHT!!
IDIOTS.
.....
INCREDIBLE! THEY'RE SHOWING REAL POWER UP THERE!
TAKANO-KUN... IT'S NOW OR NEVER! WE HAVE TO TRY IT!!
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
HAHH
HAHH
NEVER! YOU'D BETTER ASK THEM TO TAKE YOU DOWN!
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
DAMMIT! WILL YOU JUST ADMIT YOU'RE BEAT?!
!
YOU MEAN IT, DON'T YOU?
GWIP

That Famous Scene: For Those in the Know.

SO ALL I MUST DO IS HIT THE CARD, CORRECT?
THEN YOU HIT THE CARD ON THE FLOOR THAT HAS THE VERSE WRITTEN ON IT. THAT'S THE GAME.
THE ONE WHO HIT'S THE MOST CARD'S WINS!
LALA-CHAN, WHEN YOU DO THE HUNDRED VERSES COLLECTION, THE FIRST THING IS TO LISTEN TO THE READER READ THE VERSE.
AH!
HE'S FASTER THAN I THOUGHT!
GOT YA!
YURA NO TO O: WATARU FUNABITO; KAJI O TAE; YUKUE MO SHIRANU; KOI NO MICHI KA NA?
(THE BOATMEN ARE TOSSED ON THE WAVES. THEY STEER, BUT THEY KNOW NOT WHERE THEY GO. SUCH IS THE PATH OF LOVE.)
WHAMM
KRAKL
HUMPH!!
YOU UNDERESTIMATE ME
ROLLL ROLLL ROLLL
KYAAA! IMADORI-SAN!!
WELL... WE'LL LET IT SLIDE.
IT IS NEW YEAR'S, AFTER ALL.
HM? WAS THAT NOT CORRECT?

TKO: Lala Wins.

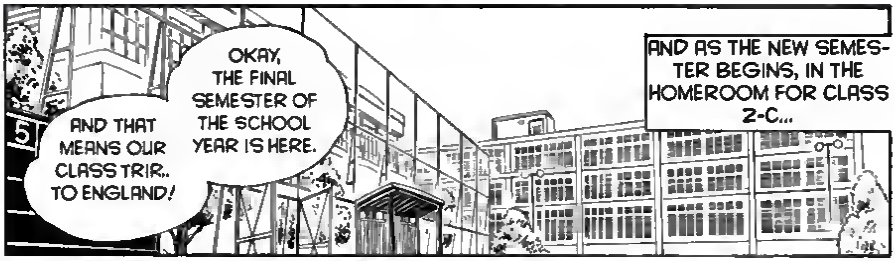
<HAGOITA (BATTLEDORE AND SHUTTLECOCK)>

THAT'S RIGHT! YOU HIT THE SHUTTLECOCK IN THE AIR WITH THAT BOARD.
IF YOU LET IT FALL, YOUR OPPONENT GETS TO DRAW ON YOUR FACE AS YOUR PUNISHMENT.
HAGOITA?
THERE AREN'T ANY PLACES LEFT TO DRAW ON.
HMM? WELL, LET'S GIVE IT A TRY.
JUST TO WARN YOU, I WON'T BE PULLING MY PUNCHES!
MM... I THINK IT WAS A MISMATCH.
EH?
YAKUMO! YOU HAVE TO GET REVENGE FOR YOUR NEE-CHAN!
WAAAAH!
WHAT? YOU MEAN YOU WANT TO TAKE ME ON?
EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR!
I'D LIKE A CHANCE, IF YOU PLEASE.
HONESTLY! YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING, CAN YOU?
YOU'RE NOT EVEN A CHALLENGE!

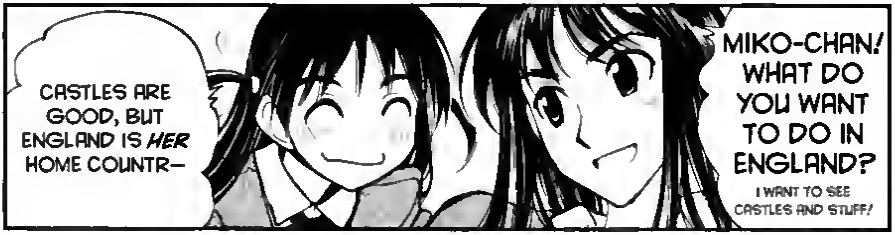
THOK
OH! I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED THAT FROM YOU, YAKUMO-CHAN!
AH...
W—
WAIT A MIN-UTE...
M-MY TEAM IS MAKING A SUBSTITUTION!
BY WHICH I MEAN, HE'S THE ONE WHO WILL TAKE THE PUNISHMENT!!
.....
HEY!
GWIP
YOU'RE SO CUTE.. WHA-?
TENMA-CHAN.
AAAH!! THAT'S...!!

KH...
JUST GRIT YOUR TEETH AND TAKE IT!
HUUH?! WHY ME?! DON'T BE STUPID!!
WELL NOW! HAVE WE FORGOTTEN JUST WHO MADE WHO FALL OFF OF A CLIFF ON NEW YEAR'S DAY?
EH...?
SHE'S JUST A KÔHAI..
WHAT ARE THEY ALL GETTING SO SERIOUS ABOUT?
B-BUT...
ほーっほっほ。
HOOO HO HO HO!
I-IT LOOKS LIKE THIS IS THE WAY IT IS, LITTLE SISTER-SAN.
HEH HEH HEH! GO AHEAD! SEE IF YOU EVEN CAN!!
NOW... YOU MAY DRAW TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT!!
WHAT?!
ぴっ!! PAINT
ぴっ!! PAINT
....
!
PANIC
オロオロ
PANIC
AH!
A BEARD AND MUSTACHE

<THIRD SEMESTER>


AND AS THE NEW SEMESTER BEGINS, IN THE HOMEROOM FOR CLASS 2-C...
OKAY, THE FINAL SEMESTER OF THE SCHOOL YEAR IS HERE.
AND THAT MEANS OUR CLASS TRIP.. TO ENGLAND!

HEY! HEY!! STOP BEING SO SELFISH, YOU GUYS!!
I'M GOING TO STONEHENGE AND CALLING DOWN THE UFOS!
THAT'S TOO MUCH TROUBLE! LET'S JUST BREAK INTO GROUPS AND DO IT OURSELVES!
CHATTER
CHATTER
BAMM
BAMM



IT'S OVERSEAS TRAVEL, SO THERE WILL BE MORE MEETINGS THAN NORMAL..
IT'S A VERY IMPORTANT AND BUSY POSITION, SO LET'S DECIDE THE REPRESENTATIVE PROPERLY!

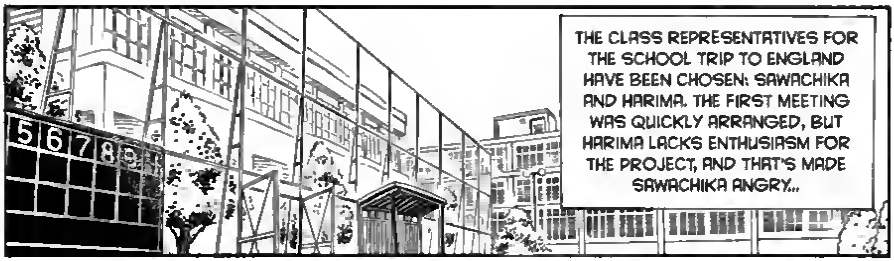
W-WAIT A MINUTE! I'M...
CHATTER
CHATTER
YEAH! SAWACHIKA WOULD DO IT RIGHT!! I APPROVE!!
OHH!!
ERI, RESIGN YOURSELF TO IT.
SHE'S BEEN THERE BEFORE, HASN'T SHE? SHE'S PERFECT!
I'M PRETTY SURE IT'S GOING TO BE HANAI-KUN, BUT...
THANK YOU, SAWACHIKA-SAN.
I WILL ..DO IT!!
NOW, FOR THE MALE REPRESEN-TATIVE...
DON'T FORGET THIS, TENMA, BECAUSE I WON'T!
I-I GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE...
KATAK
OHHH!!
FINE, IF YOU ALL WANT ME FOR THE POSI-TION...
ALL RIGHT.
SO THAT MEANS WE HAVE TO CHOOSE SOMEONE ELSE IN HIS PLACE.
HE'S NEVER HAD AN UNEXCUSED LATENESS OR ABSENCE IN HIS ENTIRE SCHOOL CAREER?
...THIS TURNS OUT TO BE THE DAY HE'S ABSENT, HUH?
THE ONLY ONES WHO ARE RIGHT FOR A FOR-EIGN TRIP ARE BLONDES!! THAT MAKES ME YOUR MAN!!
D-DON'T GIVE US CRAP, YOSHIDAYAMA!! YOU JUST DYE YOUR HAIR!!
I-IF I BECOME REPRESENTATIVE, THAT MEANS I'LL SPEND A LOT OF TIME ALONE WITH SAWACHIKA-SAN!! THAT'S FAR TOO GOOD A POSITION TO BE REAL!!
WHEN WE'RE ALONE AFTER SCHOOL, I CAN DO THIS...AND DO THAT...!!

U-UM... ACTUALLY, I'M A BIG FAN OF THE BEATLES.
SIT DOWN AND SHUT UP!!
THAT'S WAY OUT OF THE QUES-TION!!
AND CREEPY!
DAS.
HEY!!
WHEN DID NISHIMOTO TRANSFORM INTO THAT?
WE NEED TO LOOK FOR CLUES THAT WILL INDICATE THAT PERSON!!
ONLY THOSE WHO TRULY LOVE ENGLAND SHOULD APPLY!
SKRRT
LET'S STOP THIS USELESS INFIGHT-ING!!
STOP IT, EVERY-BODY!! CALM DOWN!!
DON'T BOTHER COMING TO TEAM PRACTICE ANYMORE.
HEH! A NICE IDEA IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF!
SKRRT
.....
.....
B-BUT I'M THE HOME-ROOM TEACHER...
WHAT WILL WE DO WITH HIM?!
EHH?!
I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL YOUR METHOD IS FAR TOO EASY
TSK-TSK. DON'T INTERFERE WHERE YOU'RE NOT WANTED
THIS IS TOO MUCH OF A PAIN! LET'S DO IT HIS WAY...
SAY, HOW ABOUT WE TRY THIS?
THE ONE WITH THE BEST SCORES IN ENGLISH CLASS BECOMES THE REPRESENTATIVE!
IT IS THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE, AFTER ALL!

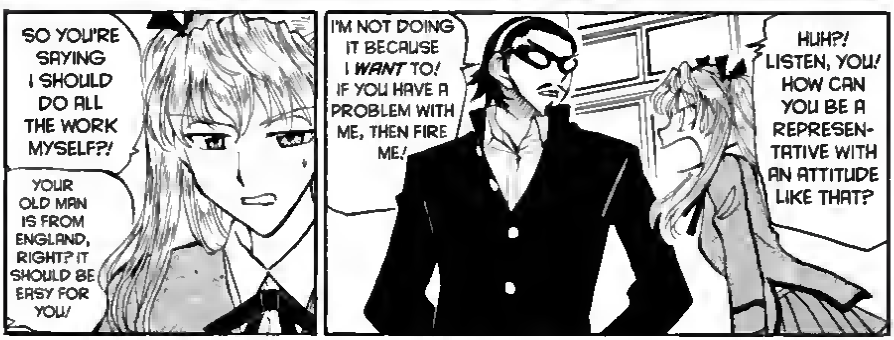
ALL RIGHT, SENSEI. TELL US WHO HAD THE BEST SCORE ON THE MIDTERM EXAMS!
EH? OH, YEAH! I'M THE ENGLISH TEACHER, HUH?
LET'S SEE...
HANAI, BUT HE'S NOT HERE TODAY...
SO THE SECOND HIGHEST... THE SECOND HIGHEST...
W-WHO WILL WIND UP WITH SAWACHIKA-SAN...?!
HARIMA!
OH? WAS IT ME?
HUH?
ME?
NICE TO MEE TSU.
HUH? JUST DON'T BE A THORN IN MY SIDE. GOT IT, BEARD?
JUST TO RECAP HARIMA, UNDER THE "GUIDANCE" OF HOLD-BACK SENSEI, PASSED THE MIDTERM EXAMS WITH EXTREMELY HIGH MARKS. (SEE VOLUME 11 FOR DETAILS.)
WHAT?! WHY HARIMA?!
NO! I'M NOT BUYING IT!!
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
どよどよ..!

To Repeat: Harima's Beard Makes Its Return.

161 · · · · · · · · · Fin


THE CLASS REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE SCHOOL TRIP TO ENGLAND HAVE BEEN CHOSEN: SAWACHIKA AND HARIMA. THE FIRST MEETING WAS QUICKLY ARRANGED, BUT HARIMA LACKS ENTHUSIASM FOR THE PROJECT, AND THAT'S MADE SAWACHIKA ANGRY...

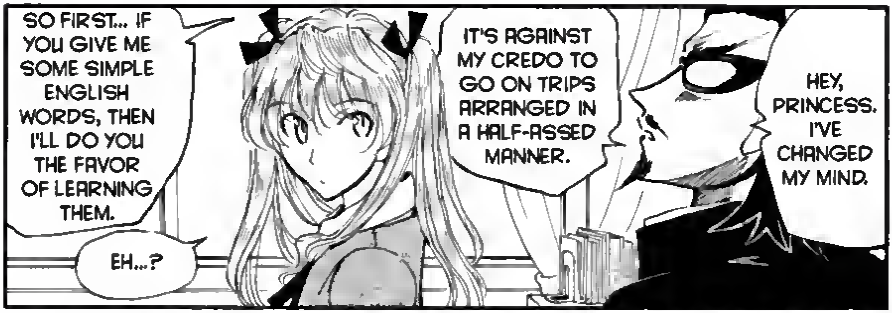
ENGLAND?
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT!
I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S HOT OR COLD. I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S GOT MUMMIES OR PYRAMIDS. WHERE IS IT, ANYWAY?


SO YOU'RE SAYING I SHOULD DO ALL THE WORK MYSELF?!
YOUR OLD MAN IS FROM ENGLAND, RIGHT? IT SHOULD BE EASY FOR YOU!
I'M NOT DOING IT BECAUSE I *WANT* TO! IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH ME, THEN FIRE ME!
HUH?! LISTEN, YOU! HOW CAN YOU BE A REPRESENTATIVE WITH AN ATTITUDE LIKE THAT?

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SAY, I'M NOT GOING TO DO ANY WORK STUDYING ABOUT ENGLAND OR ANYTHING!! IN THE FIRST PLACE, I HATE THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE!!
YOU'RE GOING TO DO ALL THE WORK FOR THIS TRIP!
DON'T GIVE ME THAT!! IT ISN'T LIKE I VOLUNTEERED FOR THE POSITION, EITHER!
ARE YOU TRYING TO EMBARRASS ME OR SOMETHING?!
SHUT IT! YOU'VE PUSHED ME INTO SAYING THIS!

#162 | MEN IN BLACK

2-C
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
SAY, MIKO-CHAN! CAN YOU SPEAK ANY ENGLISH?
I'M NO GOOD AT IT AT ALL, SO I WON'T BE ABLE TO GO OUT ON MY OWN!
GEEZ! WHAT DO THEY THINK A JUVENILE DELINQUENT IS?!
MAYBE I HAVEN'T BEEN THE BEST DELINQUENT RECENTLY, BUT...
AT TIMES LIKE THIS, I REALLY WANT PEOPLE AROUND WHO CAN SPEAK ENGLISH!!
DON'T SWEAT IT. WE'VE GOT SAWACHIKA! AS LONG AS WE DON'T GET LOST, WE'LL BE FINE!
YOU'RE A GUY A GIRL CAN RELY ON, HARIMA-KUN! ♡
YOU'RE AMAZING!
BWAA
BWAA
STOP THAT, I'M GOING TO BLUSH...
IF, I CAN LEARN ENOUGH ENGLISH TO GET ALONG...
THEN I COULD BE TENMA-CHAN'S ESCORT EVERYWHERE SHE GOES!!
I-IS THAT RIGHT?
WHA—?!
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE ME?!
WHY DO I HAVE TO DO ALL THIS ALONE?! IT ISN'T RIGHT! I'M GOING TO REGISTER A COMPLAINT!
BAMM
TAP
TAP
TAP
HAHHH
MEETING ROOM 2

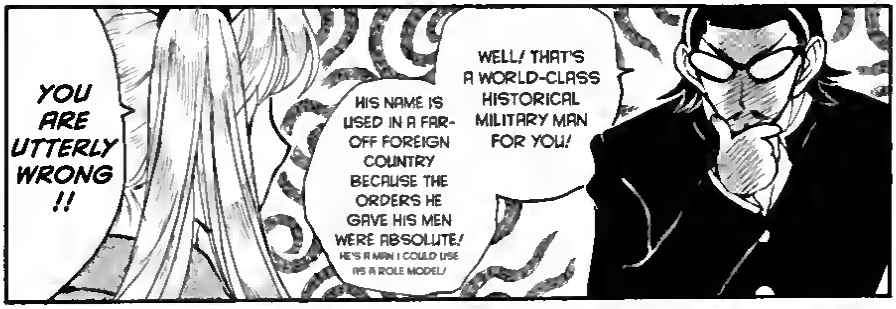

HEY, PRINCESS. I'VE CHANGED MY MIND.
IT'S AGAINST MY CREDO TO GO ON TRIPS ARRANGED IN A HALF-ASSED MANNER.
SO FIRST... IF YOU GIVE ME SOME SIMPLE ENGLISH WORDS, THEN I'LL DO YOU THE FAVOR OF LEARNING THEM.
EH...?

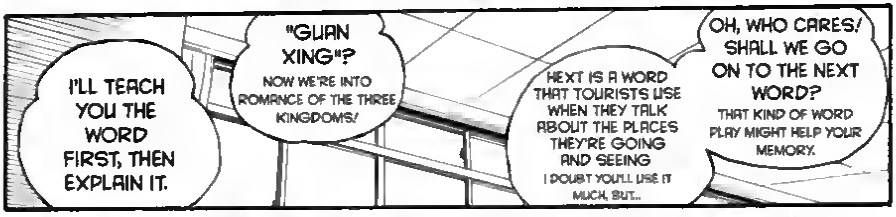
HUMPH! WHAT'S WITH HIM? DID HE COME HERE OUT OF CONCERN FOR ME?
AFTER THE THINGS HE SAID, ISN'T HE GOING TO GIVE ME HIS ICE-COLD ATTITUDE?

WELL, HE'S CERTAINLY PRETTY CLUMSY WHEN IT COMES TO TALKING TO WOMEN...
I GUESS... ALL RIGHT, WE'LL START WITH SOME EASY WORDS.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO STRESS OVER THEM. JUST GET A FEEL FOR THE WORDS AND TRY TO REMEMBER.

YEAH, OKAY. WHEN I'M AT A RESTAURANT AND I'M LOOKING AT THE MENU, WHAT DO I SAY WHEN I WANT TO ASK FOR FOOD?
THAT'LL HELP WHEN TENMA-CHAN AND I GO OUT TO EAT TOGETHER.
THE WORD FOR THAT IN ENGLISH IS:
"ORDER."

YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE WARRING-STATES-PERIOD SHOGUN, ODA NOBUNAGA?
〝織田〟"ODA"?


YOU ARE UTTERLY WRONG!!
HIS NAME IS USED IN A FAR-OFF FOREIGN COUNTRY BECAUSE THE ORDERS HE GAVE HIS MEN WERE ABSOLUTE! HE'S A MAN I COULD USE AS A ROLE MODEL!
WELL! THAT'S A WORLD-CLASS HISTORICAL MILITARY MAN FOR YOU!


I'LL TEACH YOU THE WORD FIRST, THEN EXPLAIN IT.
"GUAN XING"? NOW WE'RE INTO ROMANCE OF THE THREE KINGDOMS!
NEXT IS A WORD THAT TOURISTS USE WHEN THEY TALK ABOUT THE PLACES THEY'RE GOING AND SEEING I DOUBT YOU'LL USE IT MUCH, BUT...
OH, WHO CARES! SHALL WE GO ON TO THE NEXT WORD? THAT KIND OF WORD PLAY MIGHT HELP YOUR MEMORY.

YOU SEE, IT'S MADE UP OF TWO WORDS. "SIGHT," WHICH MEANS THE SCENERY, AND "SEEING," WHICH MEANS TO VIEW SOMETHING.
IF YOU THINK OF THE WORDS SEPARATELY, THE MEANING BECOMES OBVIOUS. SO IT MAY BE EASY TO REMEMBER.
"SIGHTSEEING."
"SIGHTSEEING."

"斎藤氏"?
"SAI-TÔ-SHI"?
SO THEY USE SAITÔ DÔSAN'S NAME AS AN ENGLISH WORD, TOO? WAY TO GO, SERPENT!!
..... YOU'RE DOING THIS ON PURPOSE, AREN'T YOU?
ou're really
ut of date
DA...
...TE.
...TO...
...MI.
to you
to me
TO...
YO...
ZUPAMM
TH-THIS IS REALLY INCREDIBLE!! HIDEYOSHI AND MASAMUNE BECOME ENGLISH WORDS, TOO!
THOSE JAPANESE WARRIOR'S HAVE MADE IT TO THE WORLD STAGE!!
GWIRL
GWIRL
THAT HURT!! I WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF REMEMBERING THOSE WORDS! YOU WANT TO MAKE ME FORGET?!
IT'D BE BETTER IF YOU FORGOT!! QUIT THINKING THAT EVERYTHING IS A SAMURAI'S NAME, YOU STUPID BEARD!!

Whiskey: Uesugi.

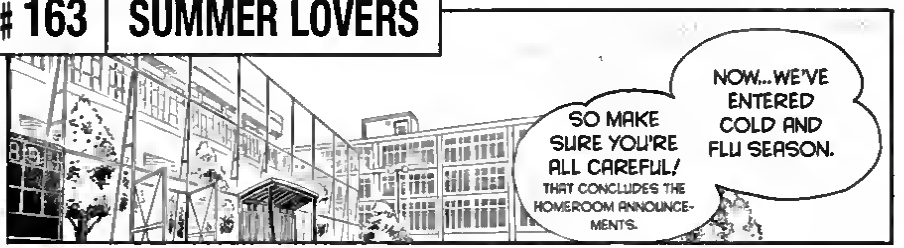
HAVE YOU HEARD THIS STORY BEFORE...?
DURING THE EDO PERIOD, FOREIGNERS WOULD COME TO JAPAN AND ASK THE PRICE OF GOODS BEING SOLD. THIS IS WHAT THEY SAID:
"How much is this?"
BUT TO THE JAPANESE...
...IT SOUNDED LIKE "HAMACHI DESU." [THIS IS HAMACHI.] AND THE JAPANESE WOULD LAUGH AT THAT.
HAU MATCHI IZU DISU?
HAU MACHI ZU DISU?
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
HAMACHI DESU.
SEE?
THAT KIND OF WORDPLAY STARTS WITH A MISTAKE AND CAN END UP BEING FUNNY.
THEN YOU GO AND TURN PHRASE AFTER PHRASE...
...INTO SAMURAI NAMES. IT'S KIND OF IMPRESSIVE.
I CAN SENSE YOUR PASSION FOR SAMURAI.
I SEE.
THE FUTURE BECOMES CLEAR.
EH? WHAT FUTURE?
IN OTHER WORDS, I'LL HAVE FINALLY LEARNED ENGLISH, AND...
Order please
ODA? ODA NOBUNAGA? DON'T BE STUPID, HARIMA-KUN, HE WAS A JAPANESE GUY!
AND IT WILL TURN ALL OF MY EFFORTS INTO NOTHING!
OF COURSE!! TENMA-CHAN WILL MAKE THE EXACT SAME MISTAKE THAT I MADE!!
I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN!!
ZHATT

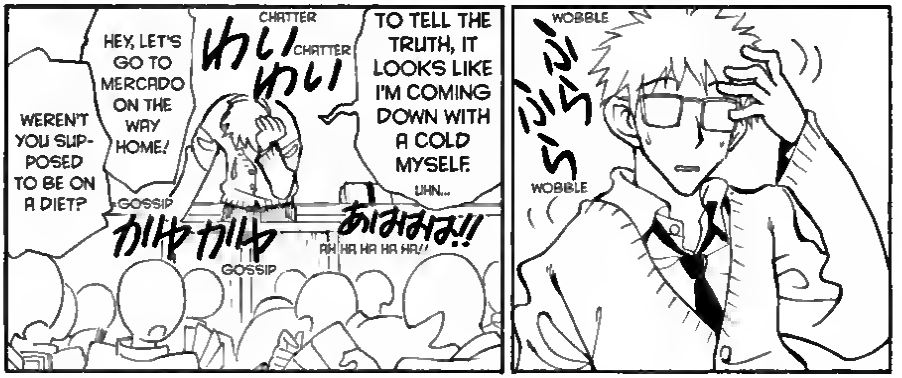
AS LONG AS I DON'T USE THEM, TENMA-CHAN WILL NEVER GET THE WRONG IMPRESSION!!
HEH HEH HEH... I'VE CHECKED ALL OF THE WORDS THAT TENMA-CHAN COULD MISTAKE FOR SAMURAI NAMES AND LEFT THEM OUT OF MY ENGLISH!
THE NEXT DAY...
OH, TENMA...
YOU ARE SO BEAUTIFUL...
CHATTER CHATTER
BWAA BWAA
BWAA
AFTER AN ALL-NIGHT STUDY SESSION.
NOW YOU AND I WILL TAKE OUR TRIP TO ENGLAND, AND FROM THERE, GO SUTORETO (STRAIGHT) TO THE ALTAR!!
GWIP
IT'S PER-FECT!!
COME WITH ME!
NOW, TOGETHER WE WILL TAKE OUR LOVE TO ENGLAND!
TSUKA-MOTO...
HUH...?
EH...?

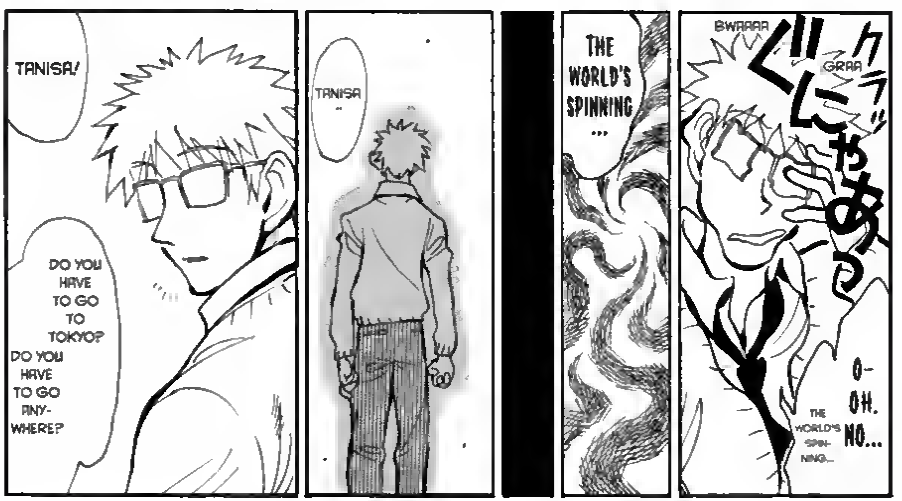
Love You: Yagiyû...Sorry.

162 · · · · · · · · Fin

#163 SUMMER LOVERS

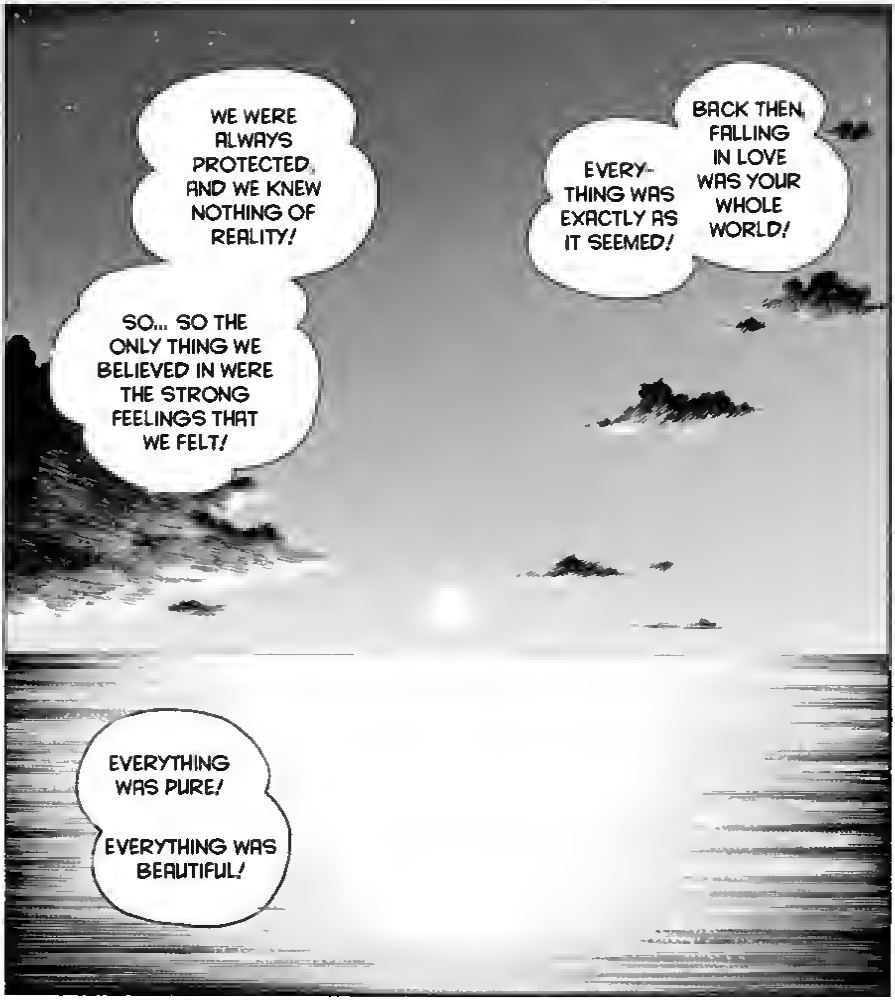






YURIPPE...
HOW... DID YOU GET HERE?
HAHH
HAHH
HOW ELSE? I CAME TO SEE YOU, TANISA!
AH... AH HA HA HA! I GET IT. THIS IS A DREAM!
I'M OUT COLD FROM MY FEVER!
IT'S BEEN SO LONG...
TANISA, YOU'VE REALLY BECOME AN ADULT, HAVEN'T YOU?
ARE YOU OKAY?
.....
YEAH... SURE, I AM.
I'M GLAD!
YOU WERE ALWAYS TIMID AND ASSUMED THE BEST OF PEOPLE...
...I THOUGHT YOU'D BE A TARGET FOR TOKYO SWINDLERS, AND THAT YOU'D NEVER MAKE FRIENDS!
HA HA... THAT ISN'T TRUE! YOU WERE ALWAYS SUCH A WORRIER, YURIPPE!

EH?
HAVE YOU FALLEN... IN LOVE?
OH, I ALMOST FORGOT, TANISA...
WH-WHAT?
HYAAA! DO YOU HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND?
NO... UNFORTU-NATELY NOT.
I'VE DONE THAT A FEW TIMES.
..... YEAH...
GAK!
THAT'S NO GOOD, TANISA! YOU'LL BE TOO OLD SOON!
AH HA HA! THOSE GIRLS ARE ALL LIKE DAUGHTERS TO ME!
EHH?! WITH SO MANY GIRLS AT SCHOOL?
YOU THINK SO, TOO, DON'T YOU, TANISA?!
I MEAN, THAT TIME WAS THE HAPPIEST OF MY LIFE!
WHEN WE WERE SOME-WHERE BETWEEN KIDS AND ADULTS...
THAT TIME WHEN WE WERE BOTH IN HIGH SCHOOL!
WHAT ABOUT ME?
?!!
SAY, TANISA...
..... HM?


WE WERE ALWAYS PROTECTED, AND WE KNEW NOTHING OF REALITY!
SO... SO THE ONLY THING WE BELIEVED IN WERE THE STRONG FEELINGS THAT WE FELT!
EVERY-THING WAS EXACTLY AS IT SEEMED!
BACK THEN, FALLING IN LOVE WAS YOUR WHOLE WORLD!
EVERYTHING WAS PURE!
EVERYTHING WAS BEAUTIFUL!

MY FEVER IS STILL PRETTY BAD...
HAAH
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HAAH
UHN...

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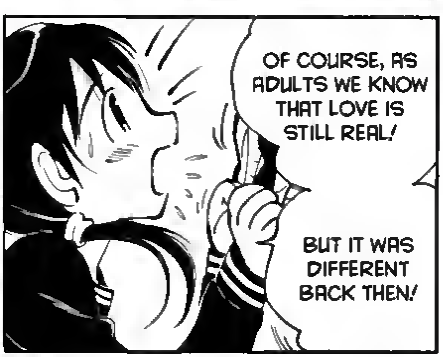
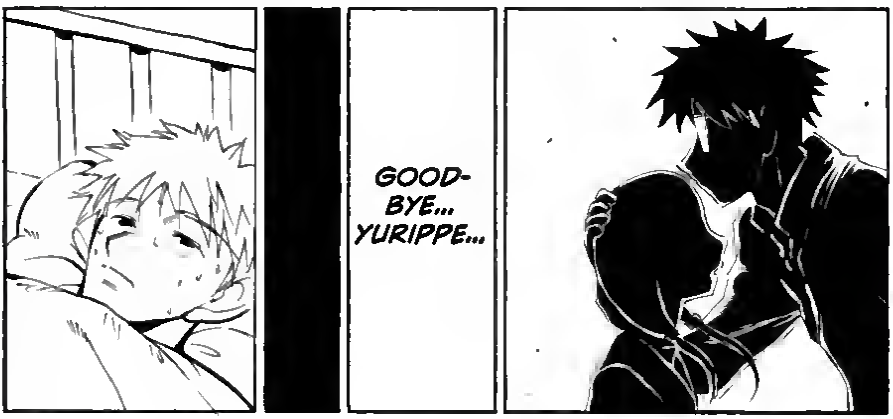
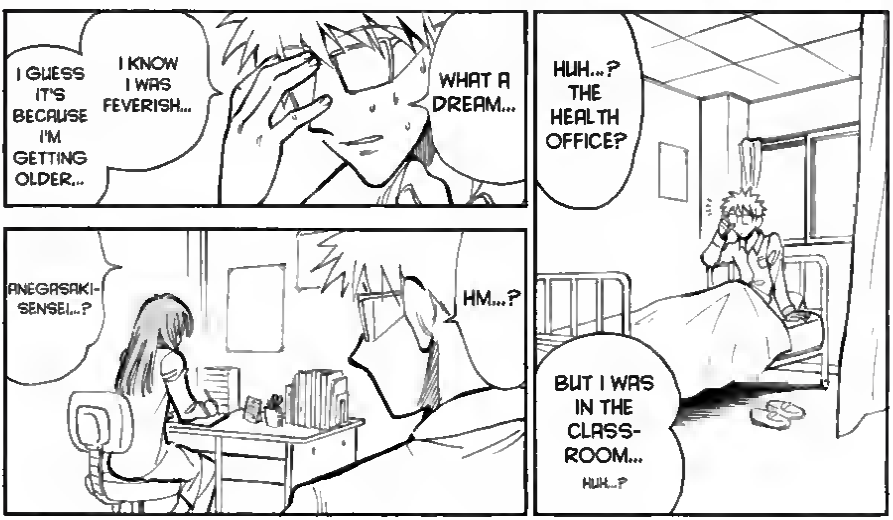

OF COURSE, AS ADULTS WE KNOW THAT LOVE IS STILL REAL!
BUT IT WAS DIFFERENT BACK THEN!

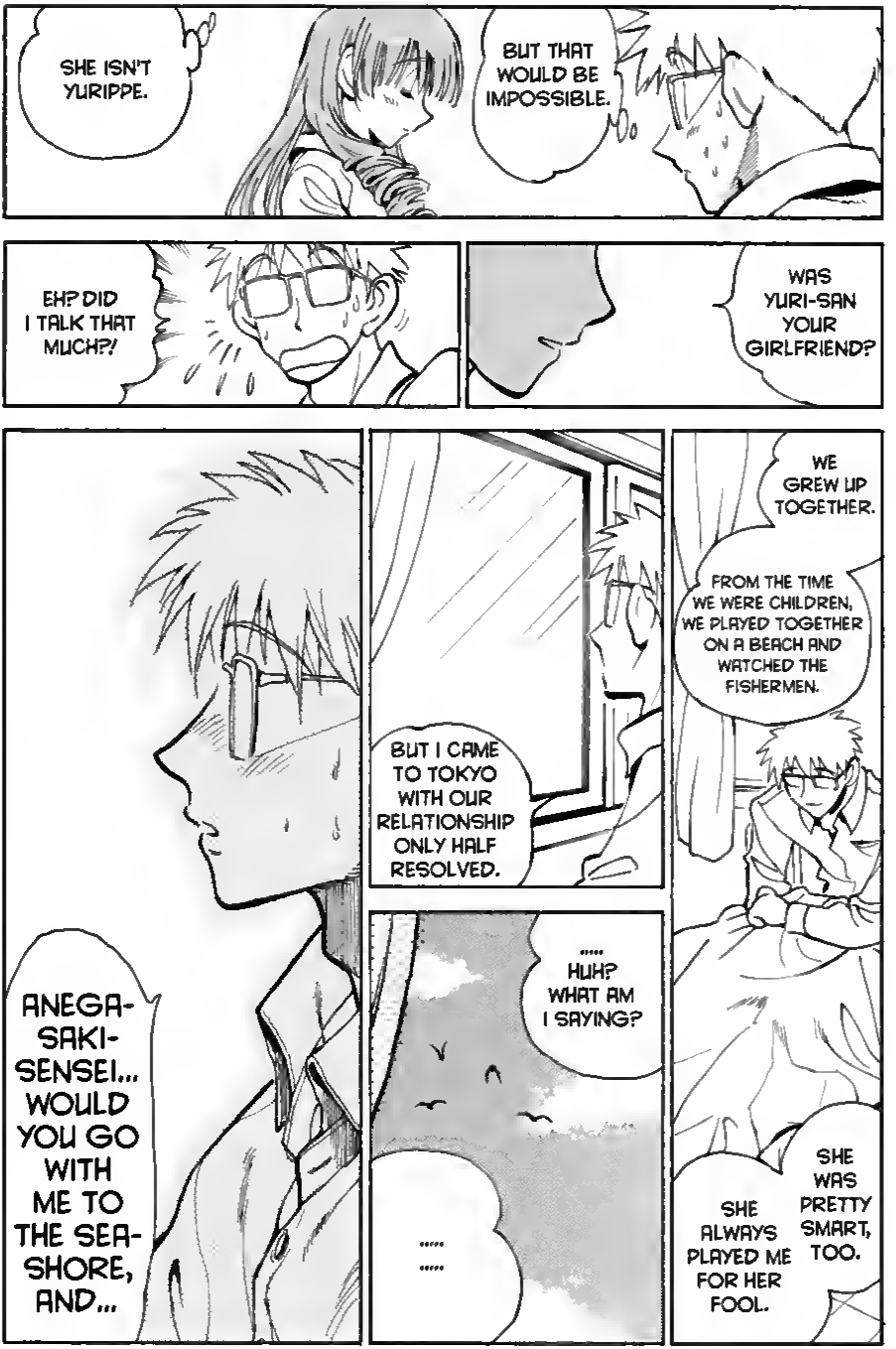
BUT I'M ALL RIGHT WITH THAT.
THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS WE LOSE WHEN WE BECOME ADULTS...
HAHH
HAHH
YURIPPE... I DON'T KNOW... MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT...

I STILL BELIEVE IN WHAT I FEEL. THAT HASN'T CHANGED.
BESIDES, FOR ME... EVEN NOW...


GOOD-BYE... YURIPPE...


I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE I'M GETTING OLDER...
I KNOW I WAS FEVERISH...
WHAT A DREAM...
HUH...? THE HEALTH OFFICE?
ANEGASAKI-SENSEI...?
HM...?
BUT I WAS IN THE CLASS-ROOM...
HUH...?

IT MAY BE MY IMAGINATION, BUT...
...YOU'RE LOOKING A LITTLE FLUSHED.
AH! YES...
SENSEI, YOU LET ME SLEEP HERE?
EH...?
...I SAID SOMETHING WEIRD IN MY SLEEP?!
I-IT COULDN'T BE BECAUSE...
OH!
WE'LL KEEP IT A SECRET FROM THE STUDENTS.
SQEE
THAT WAS... UM...
I COULD DIE OF EMBARRASSMENT!!
AND IN FRONT OF TAE-SAN OF ALL PEOPLE!!
MM... YEAH...
I CONFESS... I HEARD YOU.
YOU TALKED A LOT!
THEY LOOK SO MUCH ALIKE! SHE AND YURIPPE...
SHE MAKES A STRONG IMPRESSION...
URK!


SHE ISN'T YURIPPE.
BUT THAT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE.
EH? DID I TALK THAT MUCH?!
WAS YURI-SAN YOUR GIRLFRIEND?
ANEGA-SAKI-SENSEI... WOULD YOU GO WITH ME TO THE SEA-SHORE, AND...
BUT I CAME TO TOKYO WITH OUR RELATIONSHIP ONLY HALF RESOLVED.
..... HUH? WHAT AM I SAYING?
....
WE GREW UP TOGETHER.
FROM THE TIME WE WERE CHILDREN, WE PLAYED TOGETHER ON A BEACH AND WATCHED THE FISHERMEN.
SHE WAS PRETTY SMART, TOO.
SHE ALWAYS PLAYED ME FOR HER FOOL.

OHH... I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY-MORE!!
SAVE ME, HARIO!
♡
WAS SLEEP-ING WITH A FEVER IN THE NEXT BED OVER.
.....
?
DMP
SENSEI! THE FIRST THING I NEED...
...IS YOU TO TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON HERE.
I NEED AN EXPLANA-TION!
BWAAN
ALL I DID WAS TRY TO TAKE HIS TEMPERATURE...
BUT I GOT CLOSE TO TANI-SENSEI'S SWEATING FACE.
AND I CAUGHT HIS COLD...

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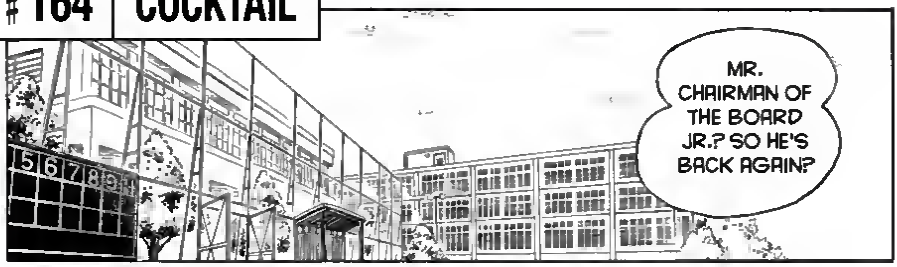
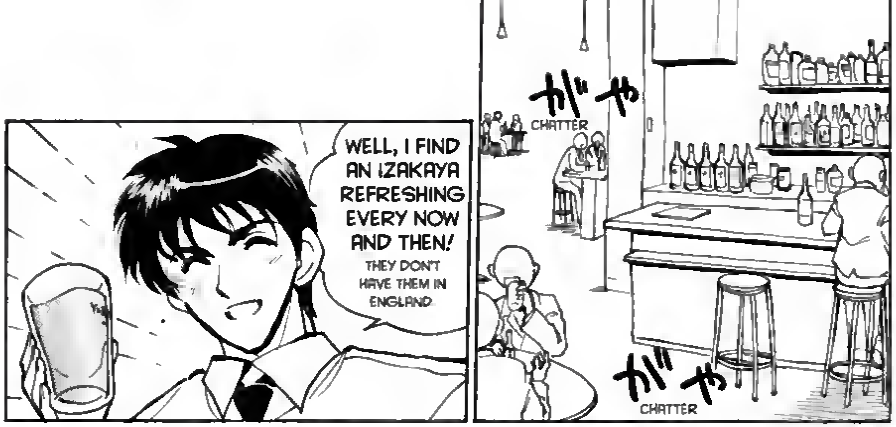
Two People with a Little Ice Thrown on Their Fevers.

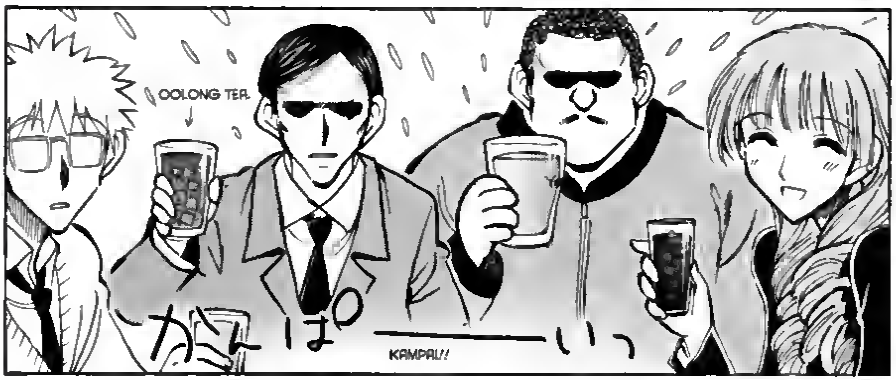
#164 COCKTAIL



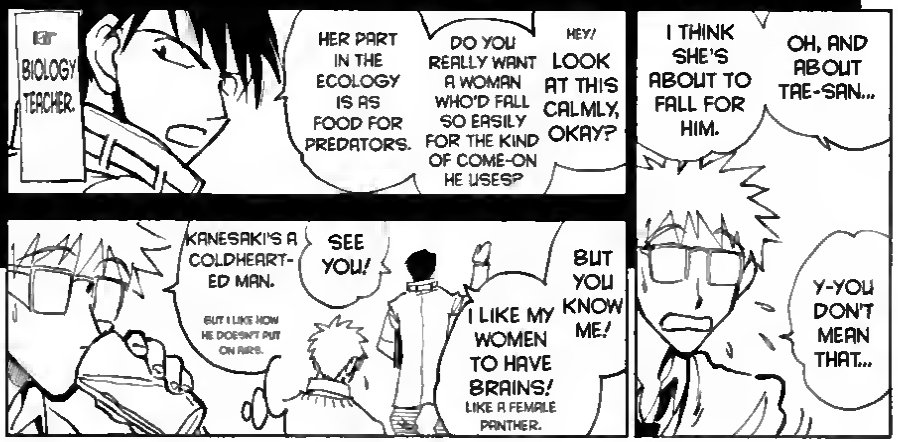
THAT CREEP! HE THINKS A HANDSOME FACE CAN OPEN ANY DOOR!
ANEGASAKI-SENSEI!..
YAGAMI HIGH SCHOOL'S STRAPPED FOR CASH, SO HE CAN'T HAVE TOO MUCH MONEY!

EHH?
OH, YEAH! WE'RE HAVING A FIRST-OF-THE-YEAR GATHERING TONIGHT. PLEASE COME IF YOU'D LIKE.
HELLO TANI-SENSEI, KANESAKI-SENSEI. IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

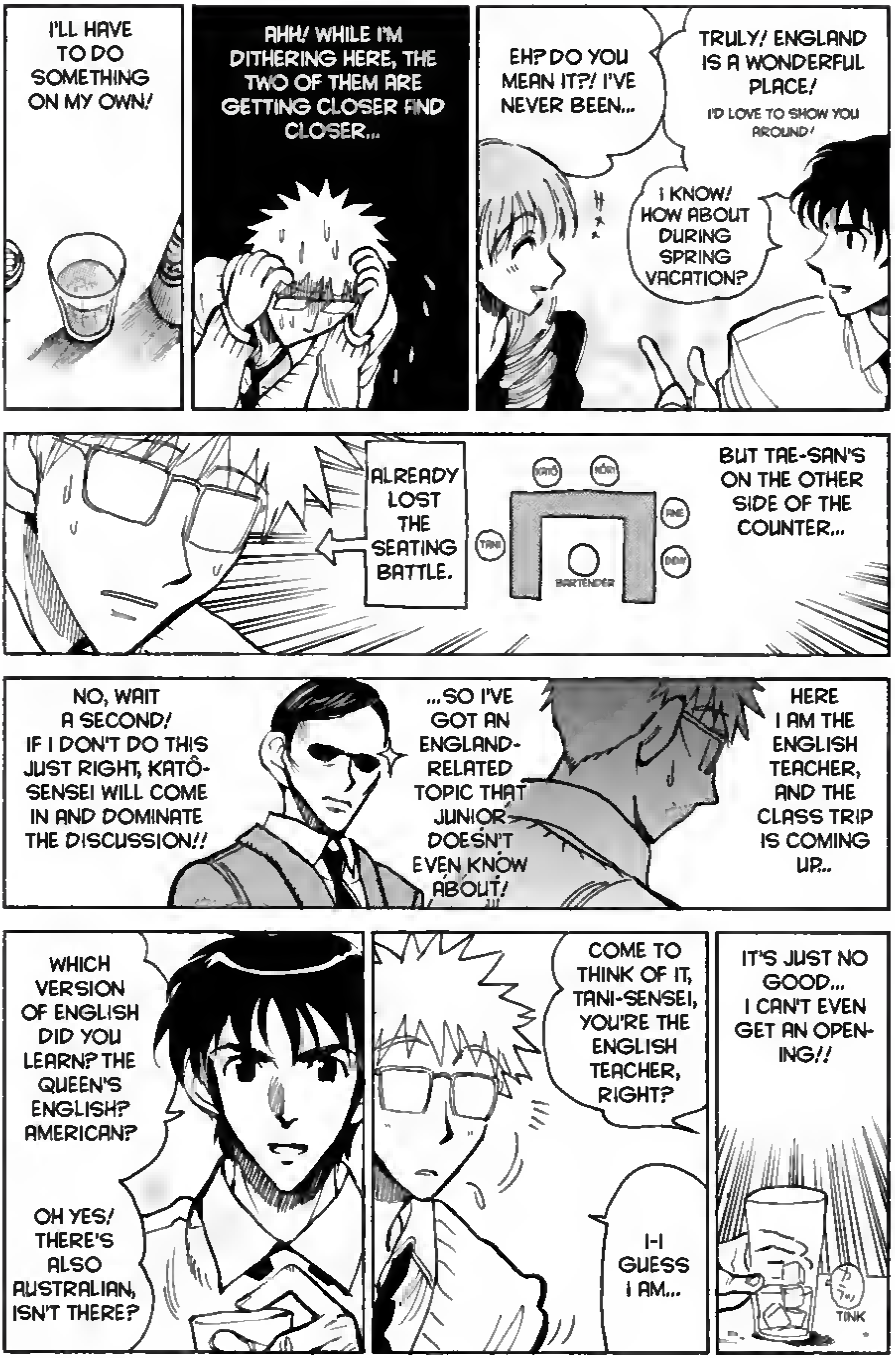

WELL, I FIND AN IZAKAYA REFRESHING EVERY NOW AND THEN!
THEY DON'T HAVE THEM IN ENGLAND
CHATTER
CHATTER

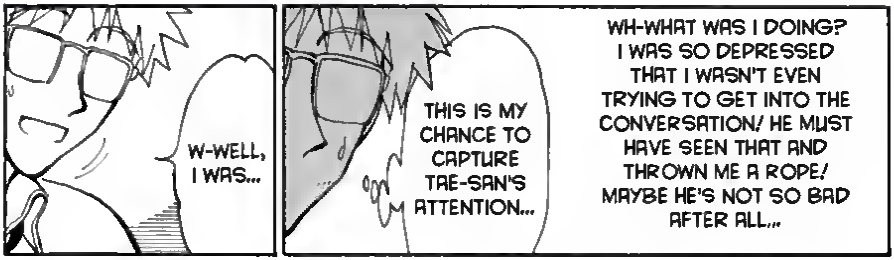

OOLONG TEA.
KAMPAI!!

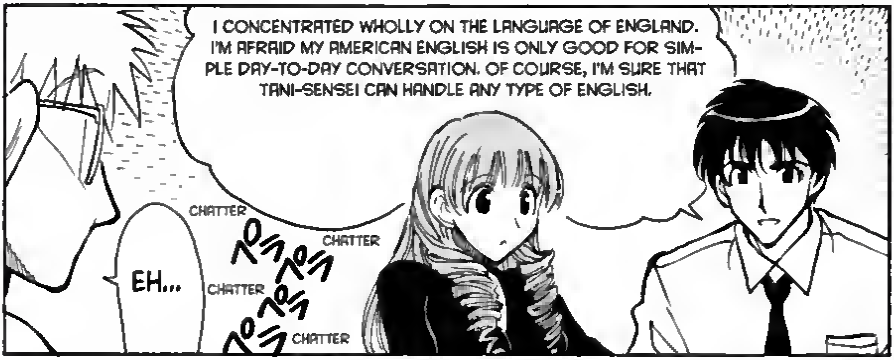
JUST GO ON YOUR OWN! YOU'LL BE FINE!
TAE-SAN IS REALLY CUTE, BUT I CAN'T STAND TO BE WITH THAT CREEP!
BUT ANEGASAKI-SENSEI SAID THAT SHE'D GO!
ME? I'M NOT GOING!

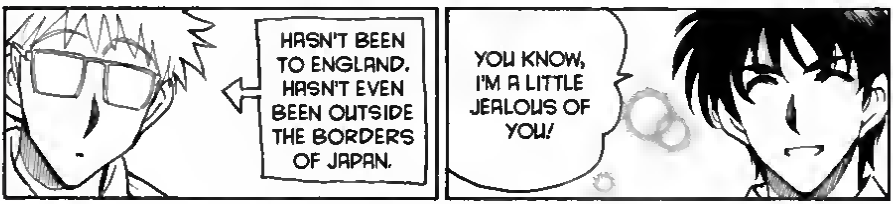

OUR BIOLOGY TEACHER.
HER PART IN THE ECOLOGY IS AS FOOD FOR PREDATORS.
DO YOU REALLY WANT A WOMAN WHO'D FALL SO EASILY FOR THE KIND OF COME-ON HE USES?
HEY! LOOK AT THIS CALMLY, OKAY?
I THINK SHE'S ABOUT TO FALL FOR HIM.
OH, AND ABOUT TAE-SAN...
KANESAKI'S A COLDHEARTED MAN.
BUT I LIKE HOW HE DOESN'T PUT ON AIRS.
SEE YOU!
I LIKE MY WOMEN TO HAVE BRAINS! LIKE A FEMALE PANTHER.
BUT YOU KNOW ME!
Y-YOU DON'T MEAN THAT...

GWOOGH
KH... THAT JERK, JUNIOR! ALREADY CONCENTRATING ONLY ON THE GIRL.
AH, YES. WHEN ONE MENTIONS IZAKAYA...
THIS LEAVES ME NO CHOICE! I'M GOING TO HAVE TO WORK WITH KATÔ-SENSEI AND KÔRIYAMA-SENSEI TO STOP HIM!
I CAN'T DO IT ALONE!
DAMMIT! I FORGOT ABOUT THAT!
IT'S EQUIVALENT IN ENGLAND WOULD BE THE "PUB." I HEAR THAT IN ITALY AND SPAIN, IT IS A "BAR." HOWEVER, THE WORD IS USED MORE FOR COFFEE SHOPS THAN FOR ESTABLISHMENTS THAT SELL ALCOHOLIC DRINKS, SO ONE MUST BE ON ONE'S GUARD. AND I MUSTN'T FORGET THAT THE CHINESE WORD FOR LIQUOR STORE, "JIUDIAN," IS ALSO COMMONLY USED TO MEAN "HOTEL." AH, THIS REMINDS ME OF MY DAYS AS A STUDENT WHEN I WENT TO VISIT SOME RUINS IN NORTHERN CHINA ATTRIBUTED TO THE THREE KINGDOMS PERIOD...
ENGLAND HAS...
...THE ISLE OF JERSEY, RIGHT?
KATÔ-SENSEI HAS FALLEN INTO LECTURE MODE. SO THE ONLY THING FOR ME TO DO IS TALK LIKE MANLY MEN WITH KÔRIYAMA-SENSEI...
GAK! BRRR! BAD PUN!
I WANT TO BUY A SPORTS JERSEY ON THE ISLE OF JERSEY!
ALWAYS WANTED TO SAY THAT!


I'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ON MY OWN!
AHH! WHILE I'M DITHERING HERE, THE TWO OF THEM ARE GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER...
EH? DO YOU MEAN IT?! I'VE NEVER BEEN...
TRULY! ENGLAND IS A WONDERFUL PLACE!
I'D LOVE TO SHOW YOU AROUND!
I KNOW! HOW ABOUT DURING SPRING VACATION?
ALREADY LOST THE SEATING BATTLE.
BARTENDER
BUT TAE-SAN'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COUNTER...
NO, WAIT A SECOND! IF I DON'T DO THIS JUST RIGHT, KATÔ-SENSEI WILL COME IN AND DOMINATE THE DISCUSSION!!
...SO I'VE GOT AN ENGLAND-RELATED TOPIC THAT JUNIOR DOESN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT!
HERE I AM THE ENGLISH TEACHER, AND THE CLASS TRIP IS COMING UP...
WHICH VERSION OF ENGLISH DID YOU LEARN? THE QUEEN'S ENGLISH? AMERICAN?
OH YES! THERE'S ALSO AUSTRALIAN, ISN'T THERE?
COME TO THINK OF IT, TANI-SENSEI, YOU'RE THE ENGLISH TEACHER, RIGHT?
I-I GUESS I AM...
IT'S JUST NO GOOD... I CAN'T EVEN GET AN OPENING!!
TINK

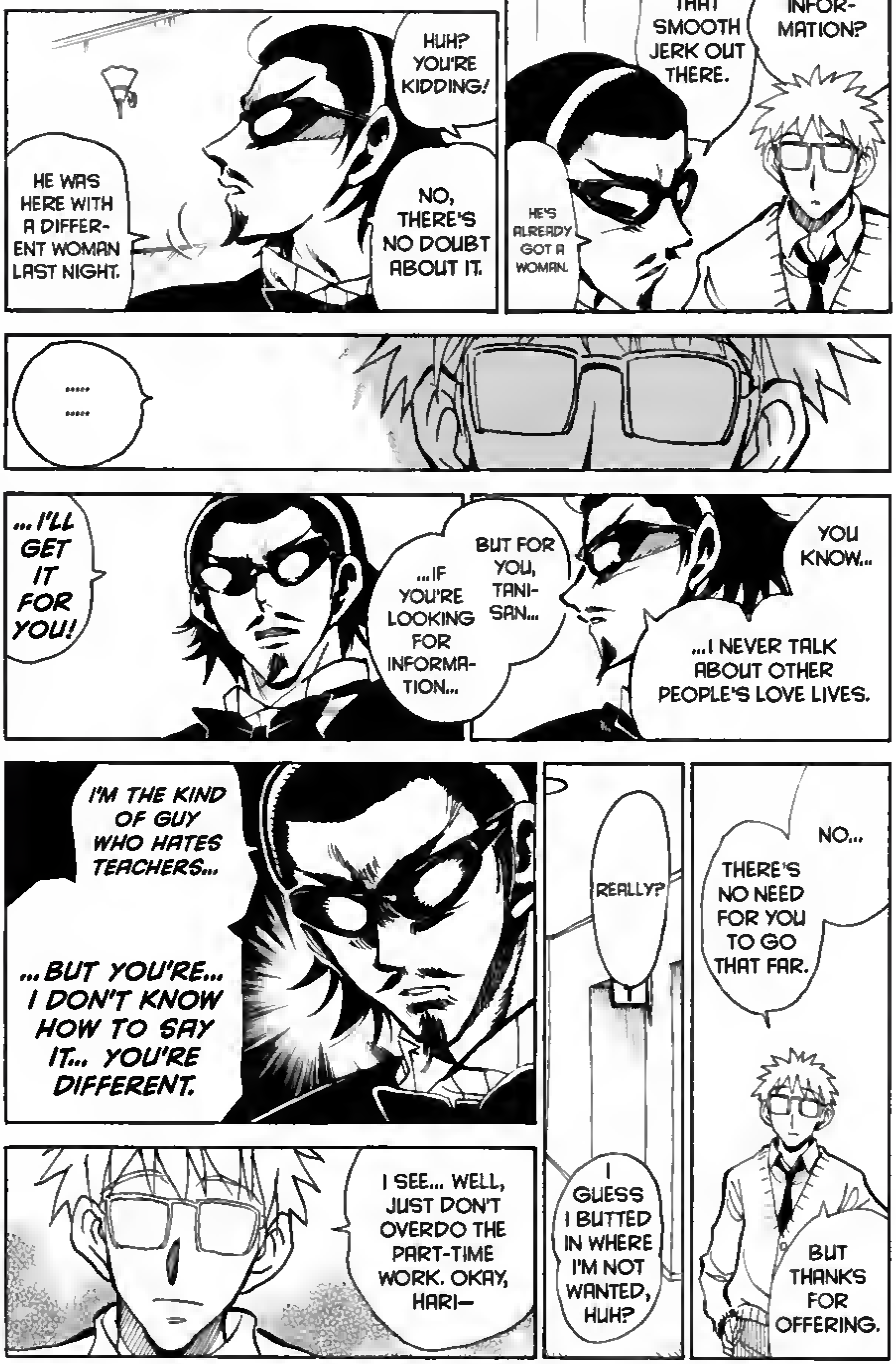

W-WELL, I WAS...
THIS IS MY CHANCE TO CAPTURE TAE-SAN'S ATTENTION...
WH-WHAT WAS I DOING? I WAS SO DEPRESSED THAT I WASN'T EVEN TRYING TO GET INTO THE CONVERSATION! HE MUST HAVE SEEN THAT AND THROWN ME A ROPE! MAYBE HE'S NOT SO BAD AFTER ALL...


I CONCENTRATED WHOLLY ON THE LANGUAGE OF ENGLAND. I'M AFRAID MY AMERICAN ENGLISH IS ONLY GOOD FOR SIMPLE DAY-TO-DAY CONVERSATION. OF COURSE, I'M SURE THAT TANI-SENSEI CAN HANDLE ANY TYPE OF ENGLISH.
EH...
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER


HASN'T BEEN TO ENGLAND. HASN'T EVEN BEEN OUTSIDE THE BORDERS OF JAPAN.
YOU KNOW, I'M A LITTLE JEALOUS OF YOU!

HM...?
MR. BARTENDER... DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING REALLY STRONG?
あはは
AH HA HA HA
BUT THAT IS EVEN MORE IMPRESSIVE! YOU SHOW YOUR BRAVERY!
WAIT A MOMENT! ARE YOU SAYING YOU'VE NEVER STUDIED OVERSEAS?!
GOING
ガヴ..
NO WONDER KANESAKI HATES HIM.
GEEZ! THE GUY STEERS THE CONVERSATION SO THAT HE CAN PUT DOWN OTHER PEOPLE!

SQEE
SQEE
HAR!—
GAMPH
DMP
WHAT'S GOING ON?! DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
WHA...
HAHH... HAHH...
IF THE SCHOOL FINDS OUT THAT I'M WORKING THIS JOB, IT WOULD BE BAD!
BY THE WAY, TANI-SAN!
IF YOU KEEP QUIET, I CAN PASS ON INFORMATION IN RETURN.
YOU COULD SAY THAT. A MAN HAS HIS SECRETS.
BUT MORE TO THE POINT, ARE YOU ACTUALLY WORKING HERE?!


ABOUT THAT SMOOTH JERK OUT THERE.
INFOR-MATION?
HE'S ALREADY GOT A WOMAN.
HUH? YOU'RE KIDDING!
NO, THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
HE WAS HERE WITH A DIFFER-ENT WOMAN LAST NIGHT.
.....
.....
YOU KNOW...
...I NEVER TALK ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S LOVE LIVES.
BUT FOR YOU, TANI-SAN...
...IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR INFORMA-TION...
...I'LL GET IT FOR YOU!
I'M THE KIND OF GUY WHO HATES TEACHERS...
...BUT YOU'RE... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY IT... YOU'RE DIFFERENT.
REALLY?
I GUESS I BUTTED IN WHERE I'M NOT WANTED, HUH?
NO...
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO GO THAT FAR.
BUT THANKS FOR OFFERING.
I SEE... WELL, JUST DON'T OVERDO THE PART-TIME WORK. OKAY, HARI—

AND AFTER YOU SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED THE LAST TIME! ♡
YOU HAD ME ALL WORRIED/
WAA!! I FOUND HARIO HERE!! ♡
Hmm
DMP
.....
.....
...YOU'RE DOING THIS ON PURPOSE, AREN'T YOU?
SAY, TAE-SAN...
HMM?
NO, I'M NOT DRUNK/ NOT AT ALL/
DOING WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I THINK I'M GOING TO KISS YOU! ♡

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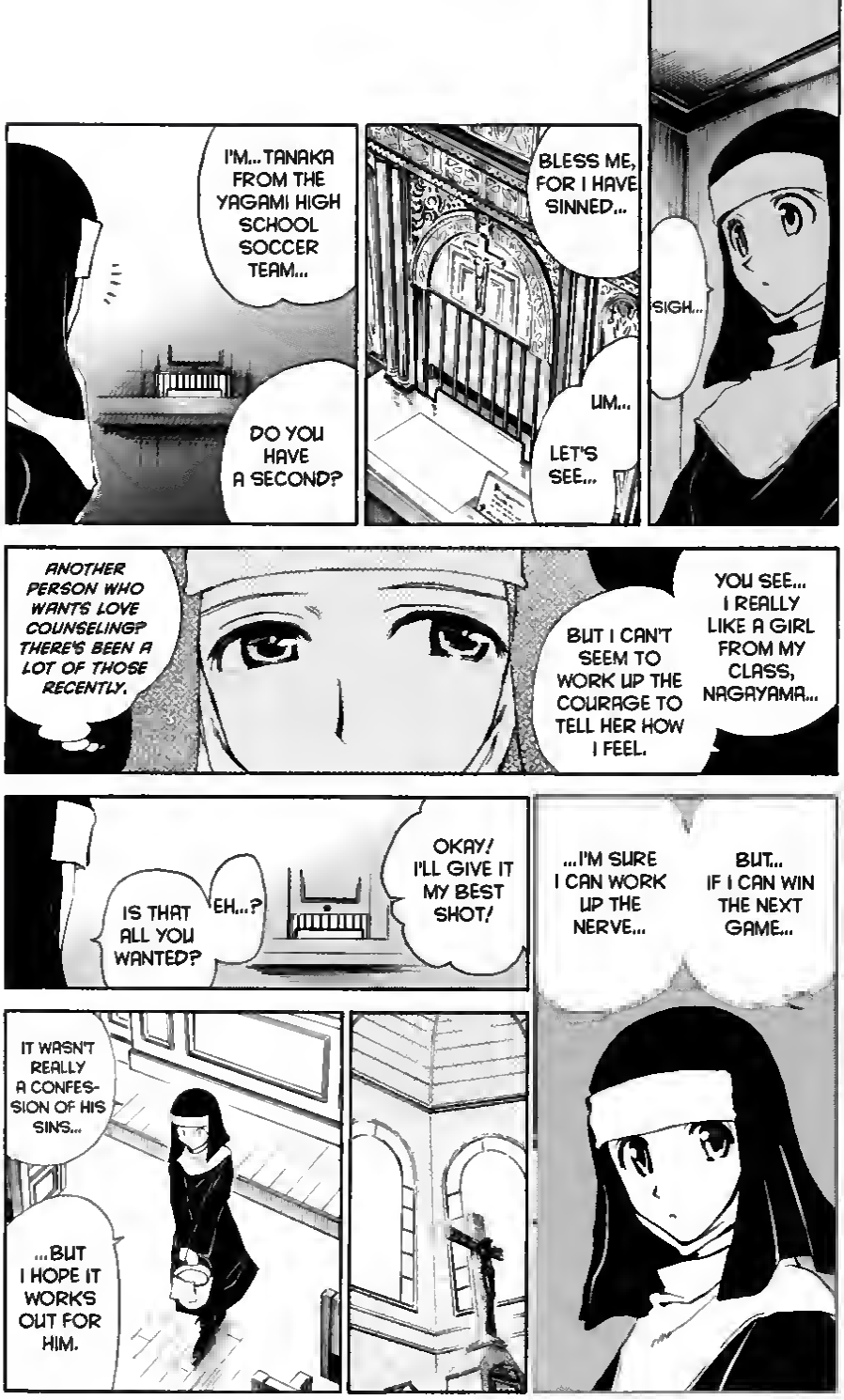
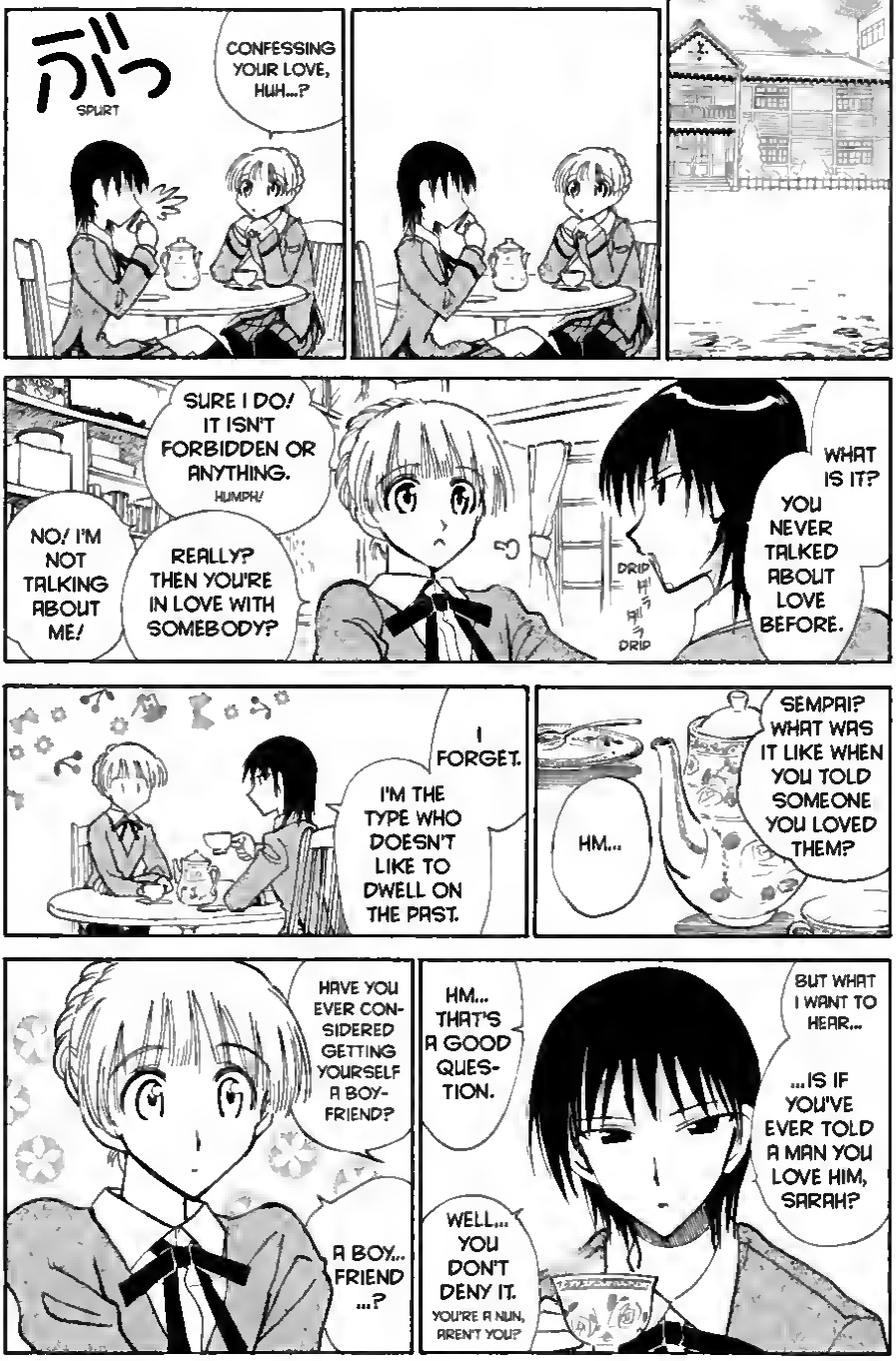
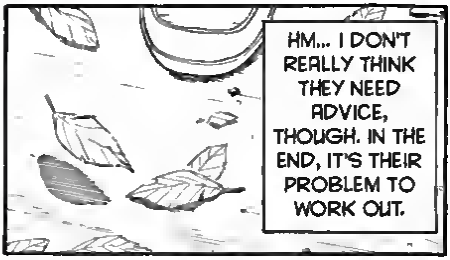
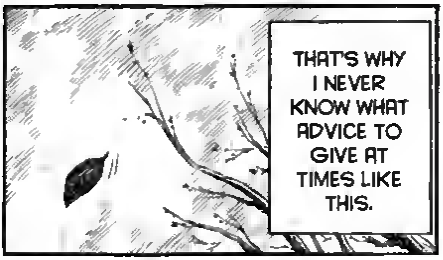
YAGAMI PAR
SHE'S IN THE CONFESSION-AL TODAY.
WHERE IS SISTER ADIEMUS?
MOTHER SUPERIOR? MOTHER SUPERIOR YUPA?
AND I PUT UP SOME OF MY PRE-CIOUS DVDs FOR ADOPTION-DASU.
THANK YOU-DASU.
I PRAY THOSE DVDs WILL BE SAVED-DASU.
LET US PRAY!
WE PRAY TO THE LORD THAT YOUR SINS MAY BE FOR-GIVEN.

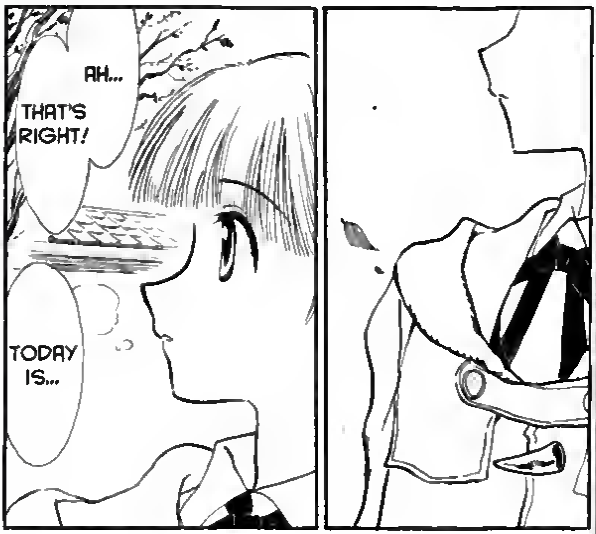

SIGH...
BLESS ME, FOR I HAVE SINNED...
UM...
LET'S SEE...
I'M... TANAKA FROM THE YAGAMI HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER TEAM...
DO YOU HAVE A SECOND?
YOU SEE... I REALLY LIKE A GIRL FROM MY CLASS, NAGAYAMA...
BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO WORK UP THE COURAGE TO TELL HER HOW I FEEL.
ANOTHER PERSON WHO WANTS LOVE COUNSELING? THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF THOSE RECENTLY.
BUT... IF I CAN WIN THE NEXT GAME...
...I'M SURE I CAN WORK UP THE NERVE...
OKAY! I'LL GIVE IT MY BEST SHOT!
EH...?
IS THAT ALL YOU WANTED?
...BUT I HOPE IT WORKS OUT FOR HIM.
IT WASN'T REALLY A CONFESSION OF HIS SINS...


ぶっ
SPURT
CONFESSING YOUR LOVE, HUH...?
WHAT IS IT? YOU NEVER TALKED ABOUT LOVE BEFORE.
DRIP
DRIP
SURE I DO! IT ISN'T FORBIDDEN OR ANYTHING.
HUMPH!
NO! I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT ME!
REALLY? THEN YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH SOMEBODY?
I FORGET.
I'M THE TYPE WHO DOESN'T LIKE TO DWELL ON THE PAST.
SEMPAI? WHAT WAS IT LIKE WHEN YOU TOLD SOMEONE YOU LOVED THEM?
HM...
HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED GETTING YOURSELF A BOYFRIEND?
A BOY... FRIEND ...?
HM... THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION.
WELL... YOU DON'T DENY IT.
YOU'RE A NUN, AREN'T YOU?
BUT WHAT I WANT TO HEAR...
...IS IF YOU'VE EVER TOLD A MAN YOU LOVE HIM, SARAH?

NOT FOR A SECOND! I'M TOO BUSY WITH THE REST OF MY LIFE!


HM... I DON'T REALLY THINK THEY NEED ADVICE, THOUGH. IN THE END, IT'S THEIR PROBLEM TO WORK OUT.


THAT'S WHY I NEVER KNOW WHAT ADVICE TO GIVE AT TIMES LIKE THIS.


AH...
THAT'S RIGHT!
TODAY IS...

HMM... BUT...

THEY'VE ALREADY STARTED PLAYING!
AW... I DON'T KNOW ANY OF THE RULES!
WHAT'S THAT...?
AH! IT'S OVER!
WHICH SIDE WON?
PEEP PEEP
PEEEEEEP
BUT STILL... WHICH ONE IS THE BOY WHO CAME TO CHURCH?
I DOUBT I COULD PICK HIM OUT.
I'M DUMB FOR EVEN TRYING.

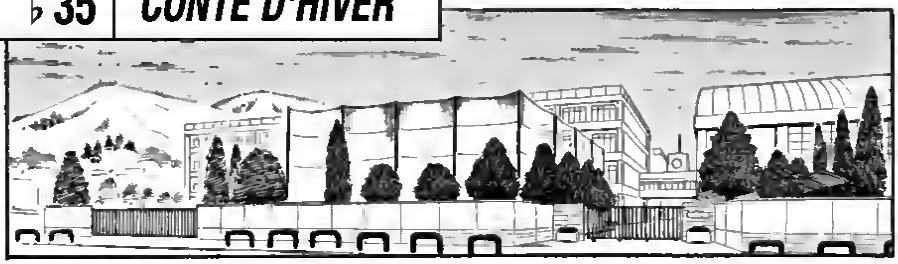
The Message Didn't Get Across.

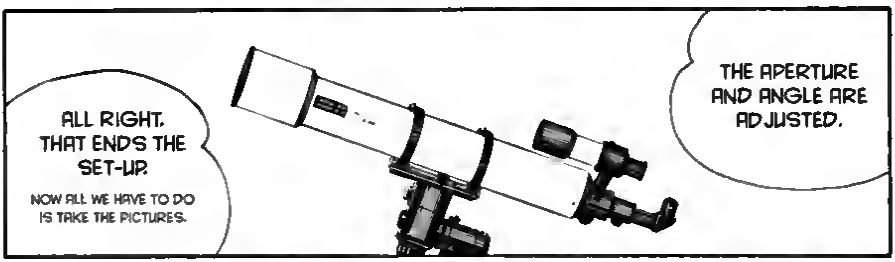
WE... LOST.
I'M TANAKA... I CAME HERE BEFORE...
SHE CHEERED US ON SO HARD...
...BUT I DIDN'T EVER THANK HER FOR IT.
ACTUALLY, I...
...INVITED THE GIRL TO SEE THE GAME...
I'M GOING TO CALL IT A DAY FOR NOW.
NO...
MAYBE I SHOULD GO OVER TO HER PLACE...
I MEAN, SHE REALLY GAVE HER ALL, CHEERING...
UM... I DIDN'T REALLY HAVE TO WIN THE GAME...
WHOOSH
AH—!!
THANKS FOR EVERY-THING!
BUT IF WE WIN THE NEXT GAME, THEN I'LL TELL HER HOW I FEEL!

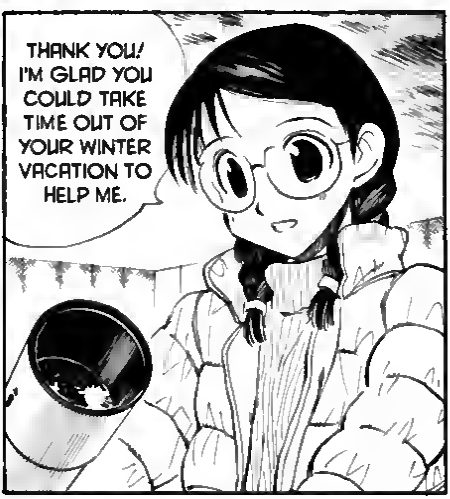
See the Start of Tanaka and Nagayama's Relationship in Volume 8.

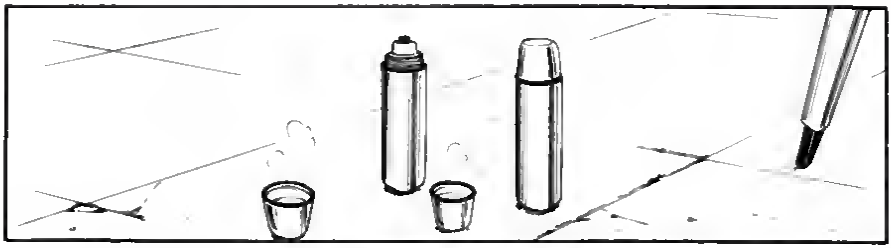
GO GET 'EM!!
THIS IS A CHURCH!! SACRED GROUND!!
I SAY! SISTER ADIEMUS!!
YOU SEEM TO BE IN HIGH SPIRITS.
DID SOMETHING GOOD HAPPEN TO YOU TODAY?
HMM.
STILL, I CAN HANDLE THAT
EH HEH HEH! IT'S CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.

♭35 CONTE D'HIVER

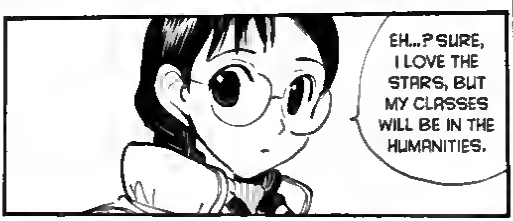


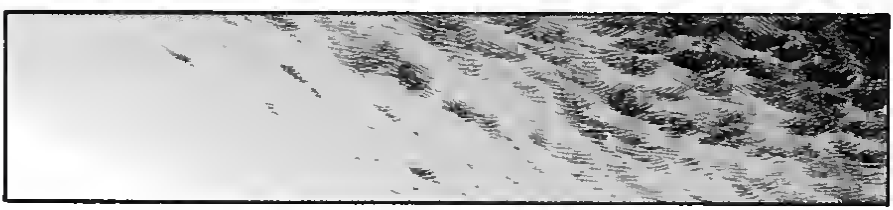


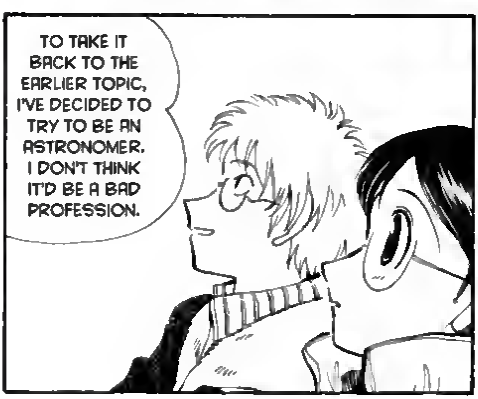


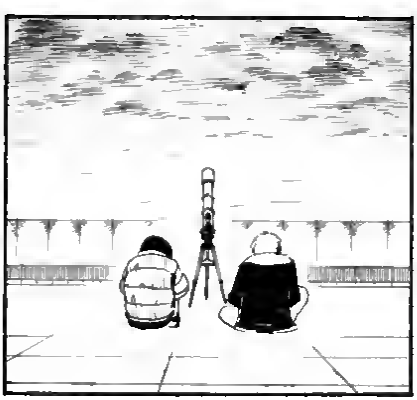


WE'RE GOING TO BE IN OUR THIRD YEAR NEXT YEAR. ARE YOU GOING TO TRY TO BECOME AN ASTRONOMER?


EH...? SURE, I LOVE THE STARS, BUT MY CLASSES WILL BE IN THE HUMANITIES.




TO TAKE IT BACK TO THE EARLIER TOPIC, I'VE DECIDED TO TRY TO BE AN ASTRONOMER. I DON'T THINK IT'D BE A BAD PROFESSION.

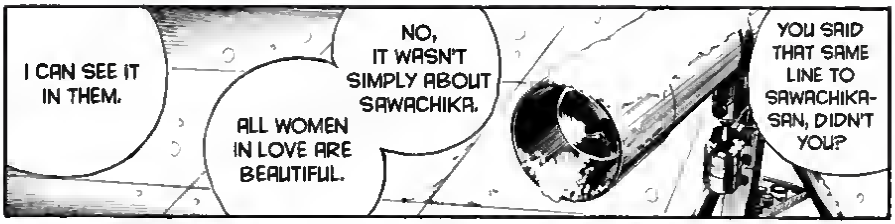


YOU'RE A GREEDY PERSON, FUYUKI-KUN.
I'LL BE TAKING COLLEGE PREP CLASSES, BUT I STILL INTEND TO STICK WITH MY PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE BAND.
WHOA! IT'S COLD OUT HERE TODAY!
HUH? DID I TELL YOU ABOUT TODAY, SAGANO? ICHIJÔ?
WE COME HERE BEARING SNACKS!
LOOK! THEY'RE ALREADY AT IT!
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? LET'S EAT!
YOU ALWAYS KNOW JUST WHAT WE WANT, SAGANO!

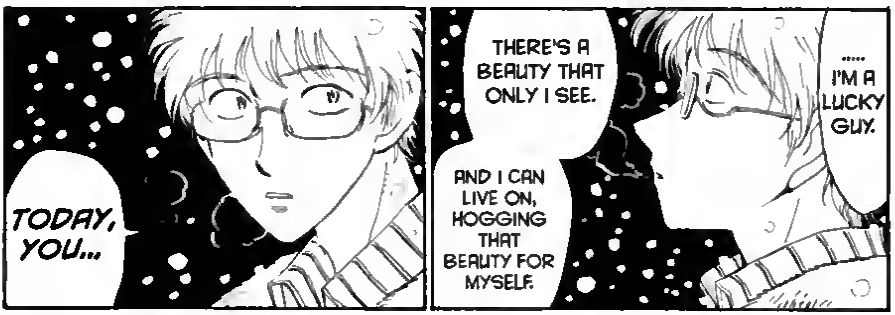
I KNOW SOMETHING TO WARM US UP! LET'S TALK ABOUT OUR LOVE LIVES!
EH?! WHY DO WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THAT?!
LOOK! IF YOU PUT THREE GIRLS TOGETHER AT CHRISTMASTIME, THIS IS WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN!
HEY! I'M A GUY, AND I'M HERE, TOO!
YOU'RE NOT LISTENING TO ME, HUH?
THEN WHAT ABOUT YOU, SAGANO?
HEH HEH HEH... THAT'S A VERY GOOD QUESTION!
THIS YEAR, I'VE MANAGED TO BRING TOGETHER TEN COUPLES! A NEW RECORD!
AS ALWAYS! SAGANO ISN'T PLAYING BY THE RULES!
A TRAIT THAT HASN'T CHANGED SINCE MY LONG-LOST PAST.
WELL, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED EITHER, ICHIJÔ.
Y-YOU THINK SO? I...
SOMEHOW A YEAR PASSED WITHOUT MY DOING ANYTHING ABOUT IT...
THIS IS BAD. OUR SECOND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL IS ALMOST OVER...

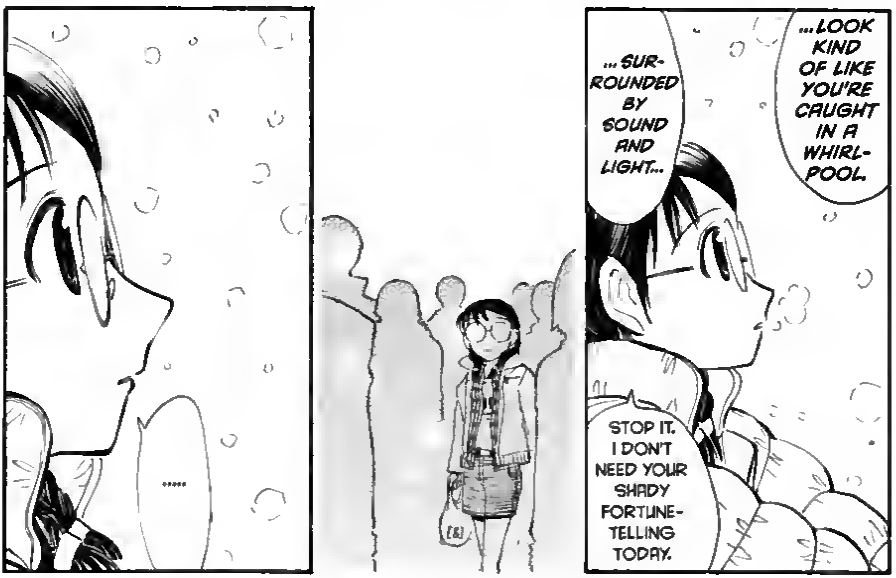
NO, I DIDN'T! THAT WAS KÔSUKE!
THAT ISN'T TRUE! YOU'VE DONE A LOT THIS YEAR!
YEAH, YEAH. ANYWAY, YOU MADE A GOOD START THIS YEAR!
YOU'VE SUNG IN FRONT OF IMADORI-KUN. YOU'VE INVITED IMADORI-KUN OVER TO YOUR HOUSE...
LET'S SEE... WHAT ELSE...
HOW WAS THE YEAR FOR YOU, YÛKI?
NOTHING SPECIAL HAPPENED TO ME THIS YEAR...
HM...
I'VE GOT MY HANDS FULL JUST WATCHING ICHIJÔ. SHE'S SHINING LIKE A STAR THIS YEAR.
YOU TWO BETTER STAY HERE!
AFTER ALL THE TROUBLE YOU WENT TO!
STOP!! YOU JUST LET US DO THE COFFEE BUYING!
I'LL GO BUY US SOME COFFEE OR SOMETHING.
YOU DRINK THAT, RIGHT?
IT SURE HAS GOTTEN COLD.
AH... YOU WILL? OKAY...

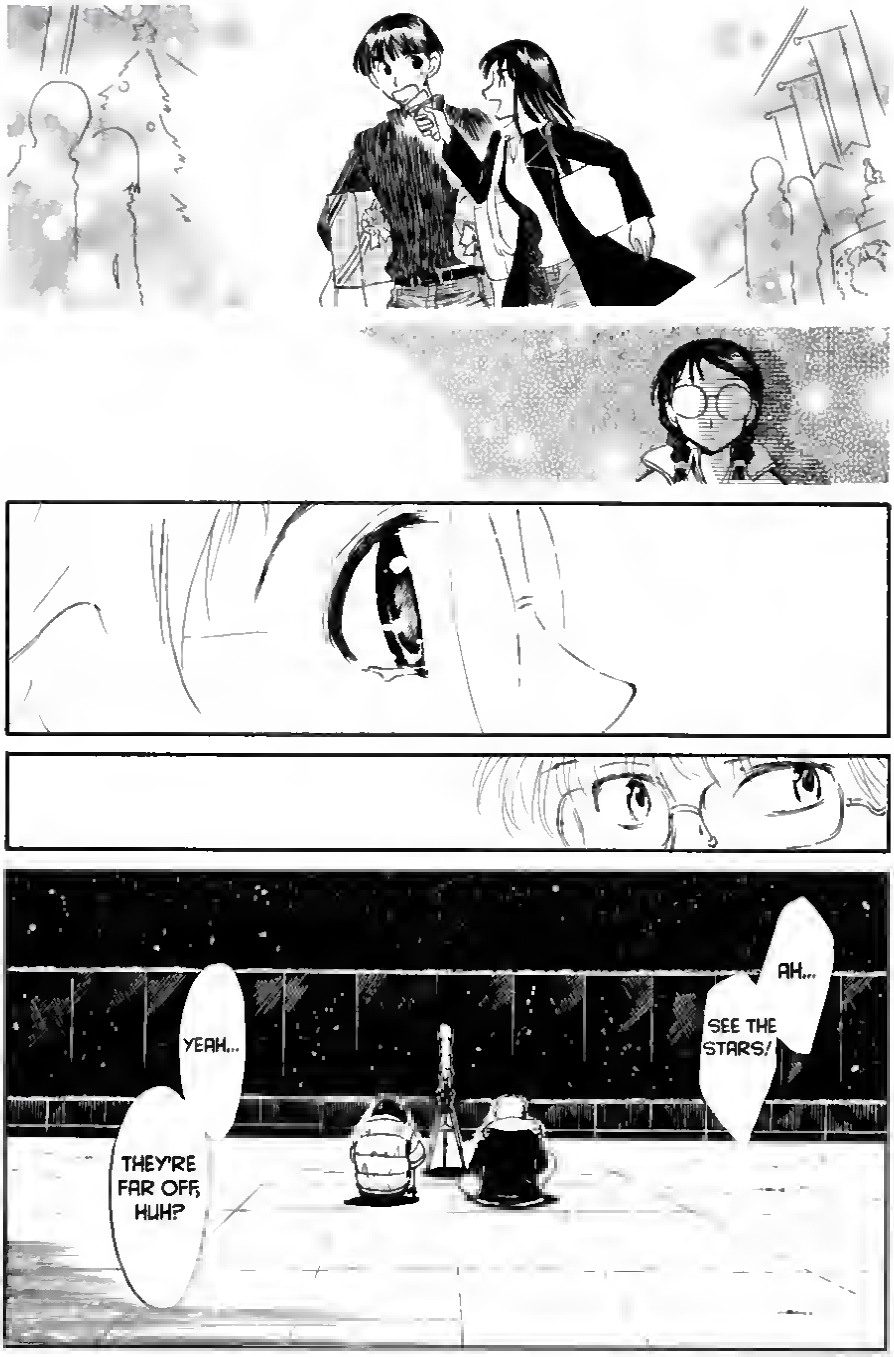
IT LOOKS LIKE THOSE TWO ARE UNDER A MISIMPRESSION.
I WOULD PREFER TO THINK THEY'VE GOT IT RIGHT.
YOU THINK SO?
"CONFIDENT"? I MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT ACTUALLY I'M PRETTY NAIVE.
IT'S THAT WAY-TOO-CONFIDENT PART OF YOU THAT I DISLIKE.
NO CHANCE?
I THINK I'LL PASS.
NO...
I DIDN'T THINK YOU SAW ME THAT WAY, YÛKI.
..... HA HA HA! NOW YOU'VE GOT ME DEPRESSED.
AND BECAUSE OF IT, YOU COME ACROSS AS INSINCERE.
YOU'RE ALWAYS MANEU-VERING AROUND, WORRYING ABOUT HOW YOU LOOK TO OTHERS.
I KNOW.
I FIND THAT PART OF YOU REALLY CUTE.
....
DID SOME-THING... ...BAD HAPPEN TO YOU TODAY?
.....
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
I DON'T GET WHAT YOU'RE TRY-ING TO SAY.
I DON'T LIKE BEING MADE A FOOL OF.
THAT'S BECAUSE I'M A SOBER, BOOK-WORM GIRL.


I CAN SEE IT IN THEM.
ALL WOMEN IN LOVE ARE BEAUTIFUL.
NO, IT WASN'T SIMPLY ABOUT SAWACHIKA.
YOU SAID THAT SAME LINE TO SAWACHIKA-SAN, DIDN'T YOU?

BUT IT'S ONE THING THAT DOESN'T COME ACROSS.
...THAT BEAUTY IS WHAT I WANT TO LEAVE BEHIND IN PICTURES.
OR TO TURN IT AROUND...
THAT'S WHY I TAKE PICTURES.


TODAY, YOU...
THERE'S A BEAUTY THAT ONLY I SEE.
AND I CAN LIVE ON, HOGGING THAT BEAUTY FOR MYSELF.
..... I'M A LUCKY GUY.

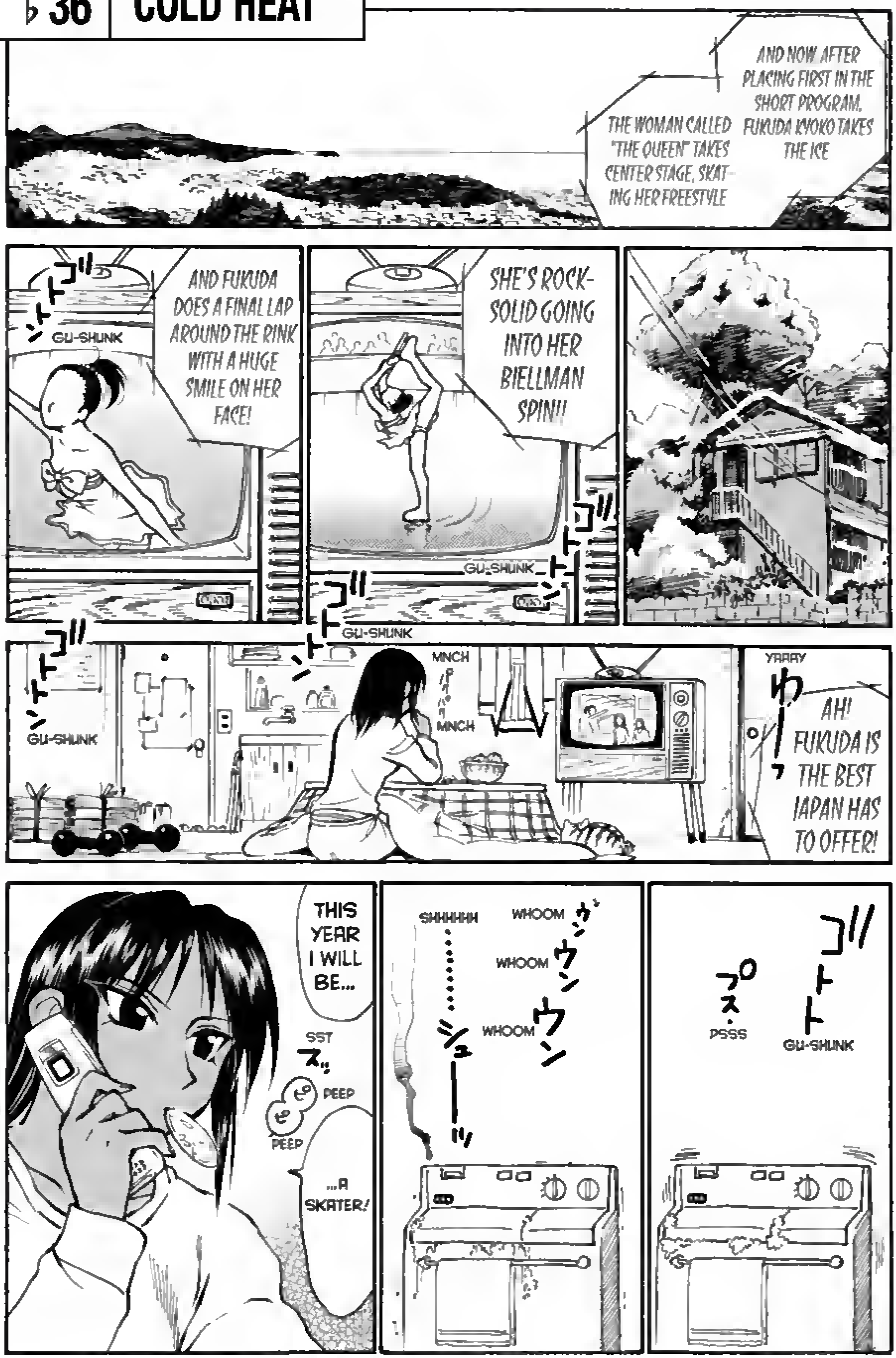

.....
...SURROUNDED BY SOUND AND LIGHT...
...LOOK KIND OF LIKE YOU'RE CAUGHT IN A WHIRLPOOL.
STOP IT. I DON'T NEED YOUR SHADY FORTUNE-TELLING TODAY.



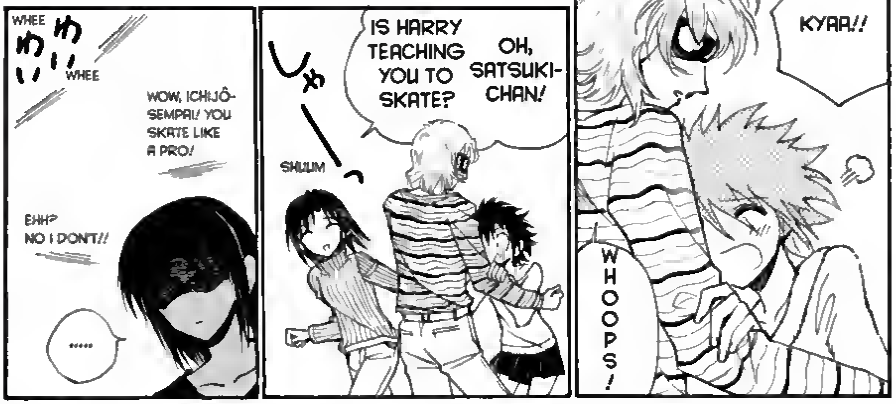
It's Because She Saw Them from Far Off.

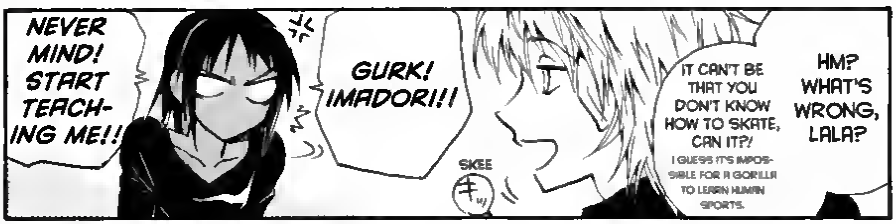
♭35 · · · · · · · · · Fin

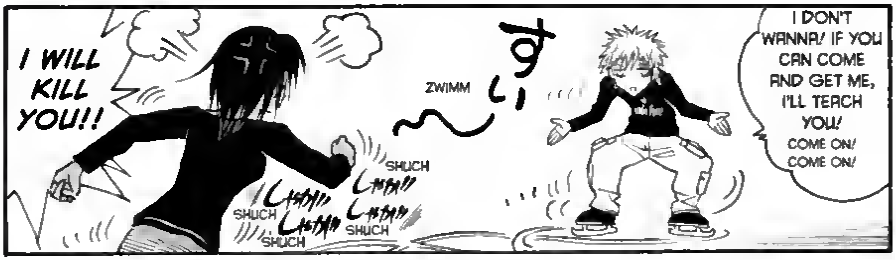
♭36 COLD HEAT

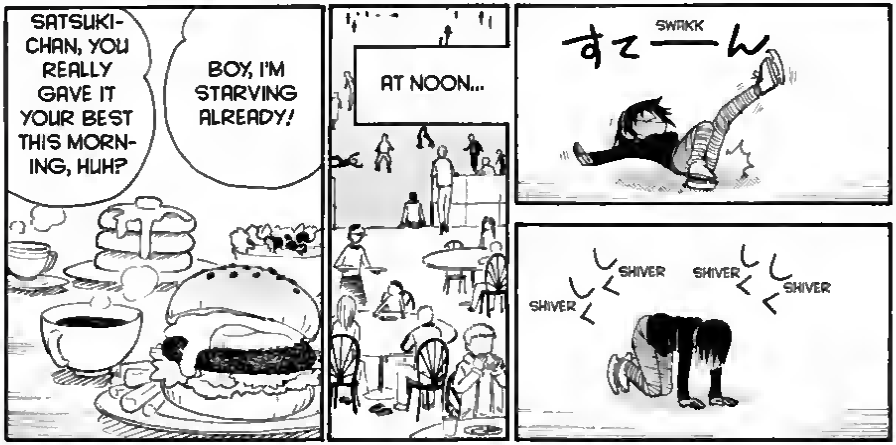

AND NOW AFTER PLACING FIRST IN THE SHORT PROGRAM, FUKUDA KYOKO TAKES THE ICE
THE WOMAN CALLED "THE QUEEN" TAKES CENTER STAGE, SKATING HER FREESTYLE
AND FUKUDA DOES A FINAL LAP AROUND THE RINK WITH A HUGE SMILE ON HER FACE!
GU-SHUNK
SHE'S ROCK-SOLID GOING INTO HER BIELLMAN SPIN!!
GU-SHUNK
GU-SHUNK
GU-SHUNK
MNCH
MNCH
YRRRY
AH! FUKUDA IS THE BEST JAPAN HAS TO OFFER!
THIS YEAR I WILL BE...
SST
PEEP
PEEP
...A SKATER!
SHHHHH
WHOOM
WHOOM
WHOOM
PSSS
GU-SHUNK

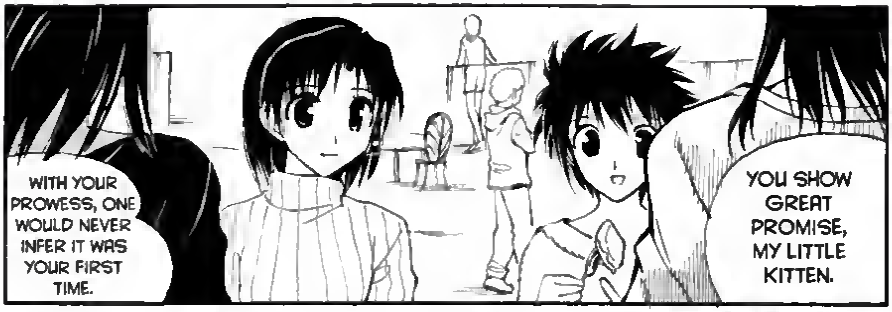
SKATE RINK YAGAMI
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME EVER ON ICE!
I'M WITH IMADORI-SAN RIGHT FROM THE START OF THE YEAR!
THANK YOU, LALA CHAN!
HEH! LALA FINALLY MAKES HER SKATING RINK DEBUT. IS THAT IT?
THANKS TO ALL OF YOU FOR COMING.
SSST
THOSE DAYS OF MY YOUTH SPENT AMONG THE BLIZZARDS OF ALASKA...
BUT WHEN I RECALL MY FOND MEMORIES IN THE RINK...
SSSSSS
AHH! P-PLEASE DON'T LET GO!!
LOOK. YOU JUST NEED TO RELAX MORE.
HAHH
HAHH
GANCH
THIS IS NO SPORT FOR HUMANS!!


WHEE
わ
WHEE
WOW, ICHIJÔ-SEMPAI! YOU SKATE LIKE A PRO!
EHH? NO I DON'T!!
.....
SHUUM
IS HARRY TEACHING YOU TO SKATE?
OH, SATSUKI-CHAN!
KYAA!!
WHOOPS!


NEVER MIND! START TEACH-ING ME!!
GURK! IMADORI!!
SKEE
IT CAN'T BE THAT YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO SKATE, CAN IT?!
I GUESS IT'S IMPOS-SIBLE FOR A GORILLA TO LEARN HUMAN SPORTS.
HM? WHAT'S WRONG, LALA?


I WILL KILL YOU!!
SHUCH
SHUCH
SHUCH
SHUCH
ZWIMM
す
I DON'T WANNA! IF YOU CAN COME AND GET ME, I'LL TEACH YOU!
COME ON! COME ON!


SATSUKI-CHAN, YOU REALLY GAVE IT YOUR BEST THIS MORN-ING, HUH?
BOY, I'M STARVING ALREADY!
AT NOON...
SWIKK
すてーん
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER

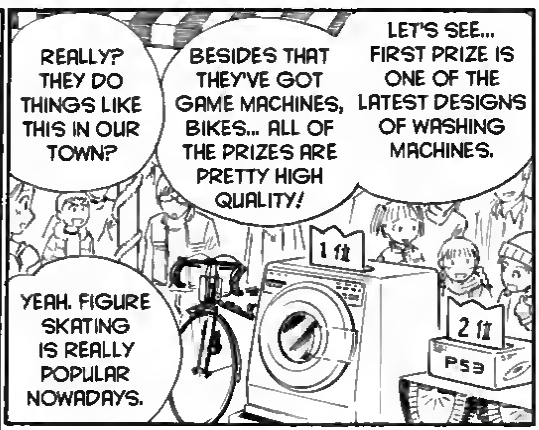

WITH YOUR PROWESS, ONE WOULD NEVER INFER IT WAS YOUR FIRST TIME.
YOU SHOW GREAT PROMISE, MY LITTLE KITTEN.

SATSUKI-CHAN, DON'T EXAG-GERATE LIKE THAT!
YOU WERE THE BEST ONE ON THE ICE.

BUT ICHIJÔ-SEMPAI! YOU'RE GREAT AT ANY SPORT YOU TRY!
THAT ISN'T TRUE... IT'S JUST THAT KYÔSUKE TAKES ME SKATING NOW AND THEN.

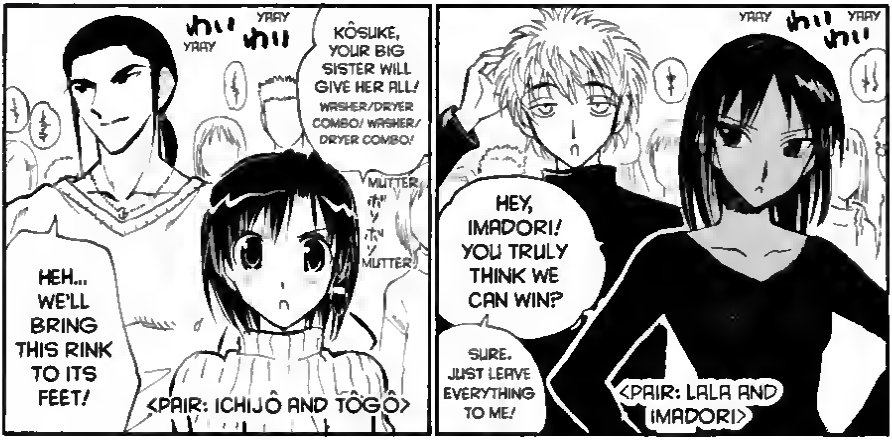
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE DOING THE COMPETI-TION TODAY.
"THE YAGAMI CUP PAIR FIGURE-SKATING COMPETITION."
HUH? WHAT'S THIS?

YES. I WILL JOIN THIS CONTEST!
HM! IT IS A COM-BINATION CLOTHES WASHER AND DRYER!


REALLY? THEY DO THINGS LIKE THIS IN OUR TOWN?
BESIDES THAT THEY'VE GOT GAME MACHINES, BIKES... ALL OF THE PRIZES ARE PRETTY HIGH QUALITY!
LET'S SEE... FIRST PRIZE IS ONE OF THE LATEST DESIGNS OF WASHING MACHINES.
YEAH. FIGURE SKATING IS REALLY POPULAR NOWADAYS.
1 ft
2 ft
PS3

NO, I WANTED THAT WASHING— I MEAN, I WANTED TO TEST MYSELF TO SEE HOW I'D DO.
GOOD! WE WILL ENTER TOGETHER, ICHI JÔ!
BAMM
カリカ!!
HUH?

WILL THE PAIRS PLEASE GATHER IN THE RINK.
WE WILL NOW BEGIN THE PAIRS COMPETITION!!

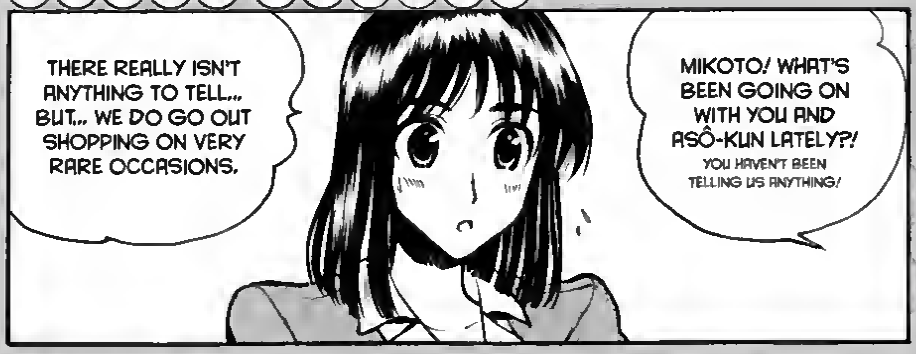

YRAY
YRAY
KÔSUKE, YOUR BIG SISTER WILL GIVE HER ALL!
WASHER/DRYER COMBO! WASHER/ DRYER COMBO!
MUTTER
MUTTER
HEH... WE'LL BRING THIS RINK TO ITS FEET!
<PAIR: ICHIJÔ AND TÔGÔ>
YRAY
YRAY
YRAY
HEY, IMADORI! YOU TRULY THINK WE CAN WIN?
SURE. JUST LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME!
<PAIR: LALA AND IMADORI>
KEH KEH KEH! I'LL COVER YOU WITH SHAME, GORILLA WOMAN!!
I-IT MAY NOT BE TOO LATE, BUT...!!
I...DON'T STAND A CHANCE!
WELL? YOU WITH ME? WE NOT TOO LATE.

SHE LOOKS QUITE COMFORTABLE ON ICE. I LOOK FORWARD TO A HIGH-QUALITY–
AND MS. ICHIIÔ KAREN HAS TAKEN THE RINK!
NOW TO INTRODUCE OUR FIRST COMPETITORS! THE TEAM OF ICHIIÔ AND TÔGÔ!!
I'M VERY DISAP-POINTED IN TÔGÔ!
HE'S COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN THAT THIS IS A PAIRS COMPETITION!!
U-UM... TÔGÔ-SAN...?
しぼう
WHOA!! TÔGÔ MASAKAZU...
...HAS SUDDENLY PUT ON A DISPLAY OF FIGHTING MOVES!! ON HIS OWN!
LET'S GO, LALA!!
NOW, IT'S OUR TURN!!
LET'S TAKE THIS CROWD BEYOND ASTON-ISHMENT!!
I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER WHAT KIND OF SKATING PERFORMANCE A PERSON BORN IN MEXICO WILL PUT ON!
TO CONTINUE... THE TEAM OF LALA AND IMADORI!
JUST WATCH THIS! ICHI JÔ! TÔ-GÔ!
SEE THE FORM OF A WOMAN REBORN!
HA HA HA!
UNFORTU-NATELY, THAT DISQUALIFIES THE TEAM! IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER AS A SINGLES COMPETITION.
TÔGÔ-SAN!
HEH... I GUESS THIS SMALL ISLAND NATION CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE SUBTLETIES OF MY PERFORMANCE. THEY NEED TEN MORE YEARS OF TRAINING.

ざっ
ZWAAA
にや
HEHN/
わはははは
WA HA HA HA HA
....
A COMMON MISTAKE FOR A NOVICE.
LALA-CHAN... THAT'S A SPEED-SKATING OUTFIT...
HEH! DUMMY, DUMMY!!
YOU CAN'T BEAT ME ON THE ICE!
GRAAA
すぃーー
ZWIMM
YOU TRICKED ME, IMADORI!!
ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ
GM
HM...?
KRIK
SEE?!
YOU'D DO BETTER TO JUST GIVE UP AND GO HOME!!
ずでん!
WHAMM
ZLIP

[TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 14]

BONUS RUMBLE


THERE REALLY ISN'T ANYTHING TO TELL... BUT... WE DO GO OUT SHOPPING ON VERY RARE OCCASIONS.
MIKOTO! WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON WITH YOU AND ASÔ-KUN LATELY?!
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TELLING US ANYTHING!

WH-WHAT DO YOU CARE?! EVERYBODY GOES AT THEIR OWN PACE!
WHY SHOULD I TALK ABOUT IT?!
YOUR PUPPY LOVE IS SO CUTE! ♡
THAT MUST BE HARD ON ASÔ-KUN. HE IS A BOY, AFTER ALL!
I MEAN YOUR HALF-BAKED DATING!

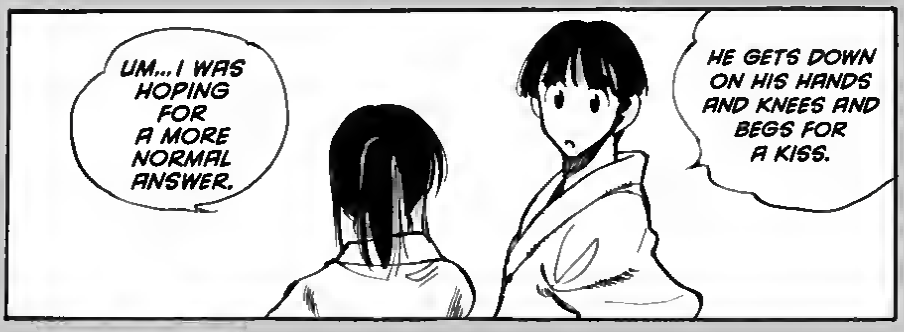
HEY, MIKOTO!! LET'S HEAR THIS STORY!
OH, REALLY?!
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD WHAT I'VE BEEN SAYING?!
OR EVEN BLEEER
HE'LL DECISIVELY BLEER
BUT IT ONLY HAPPENS WITH SERIOUS BOYS LIKE HIM. LIGHT A FIRE UNDER HIM, AND HE BECOMES VERY DECISIVE.

SPECIALLY DRAWN FOR THIS VOLUME.

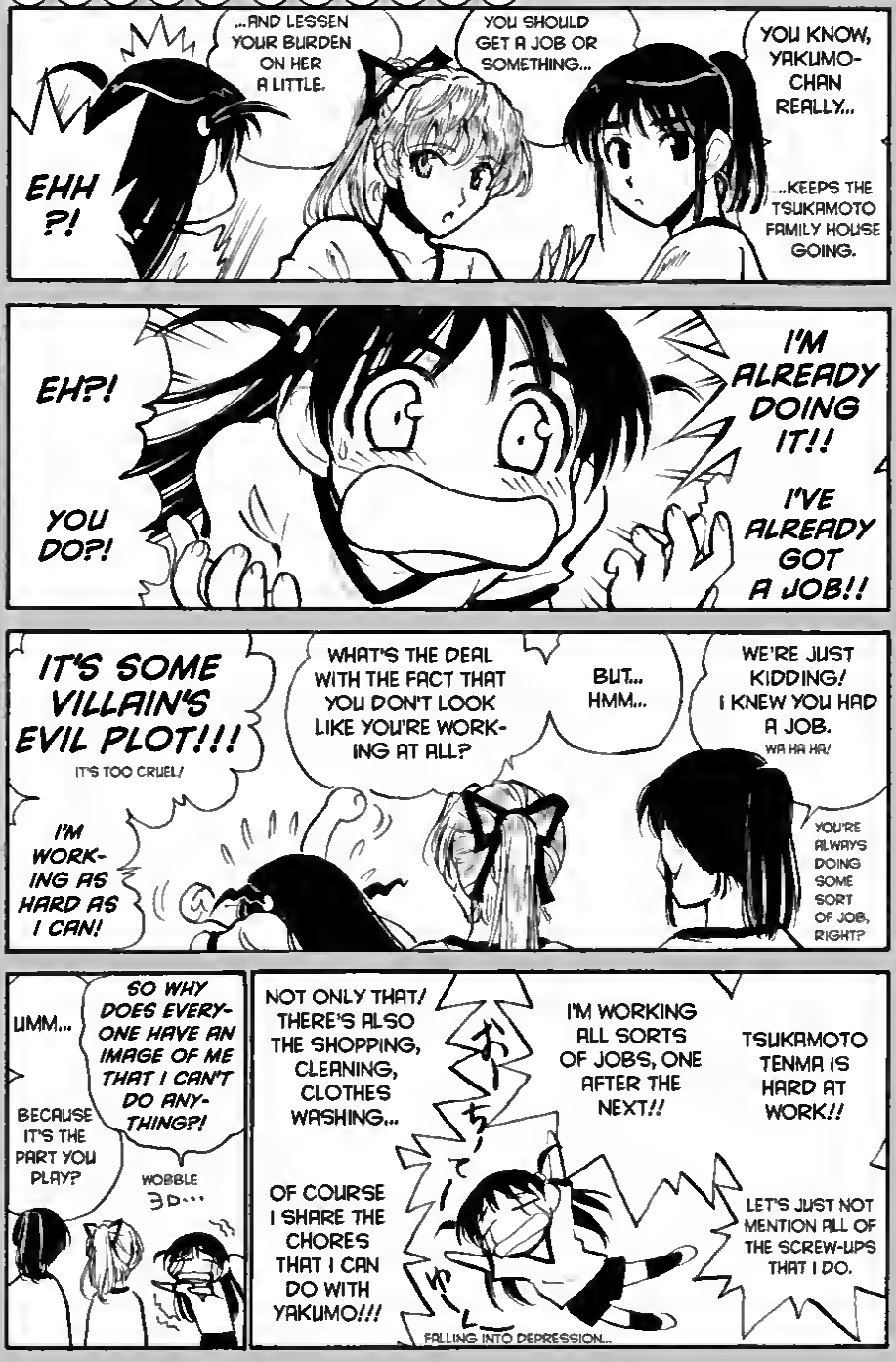
HE MAY BE EXPECTING SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
RATHER, IT'S CERTAIN THAT HE'S EXPECTING IT.
HMM... WELL, HE'S A BOY... SO MAYBE... JUST POSSIBLY...

I-IT'S NOTHING. JUST... FOR EXAMPLE...
IF IT'S SOMETHING I CAN ANSWER, YOU'RE FREE TO ASK ME.
WHAT IS IT, SUÔ? DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?

BUT IF THE GIRL ISN'T SHOWING ANY SIGNS, WHAT DOES HE DO? I'M REALLY INTERESTED IN KNOWING WHAT A GUY WOULD DO AT SUCH TIMES.
WHEN A COUPLE IS DATING, THE GUY MIGHT START THINKING THAT HE WANTS A KISS, RIGHT?


UM... I WAS HOPING FOR A MORE NORMAL ANSWER.
HE GETS DOWN ON HIS HANDS AND KNEES AND BEGS FOR A KISS.

BONUS RUMBLE


...AND LESSEN YOUR BURDEN ON HER A LITTLE.
YOU SHOULD GET A JOB OR SOMETHING...
YOU KNOW, YAKUMO-CHAN REALLY...
EHH ?!
..KEEPS THE TSUKAMOTO FAMILY HOUSE GOING.
EH?!
I'M ALREADY DOING IT!!
YOU DO?!
I'VE ALREADY GOT A JOB!!
IT'S SOME VILLAIN'S EVIL PLOT!!!
IT'S TOO CRUEL!
WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THE FACT THAT YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE WORKING AT ALL?
BUT... HMM...
WE'RE JUST KIDDING! I KNEW YOU HAD A JOB.
WA HA HA!
I'M WORKING AS HARD AS I CAN!
YOU'RE ALWAYS DOING SOME SORT OF JOB, RIGHT?
UMM...
SO WHY DOES EVERYONE HAVE AN IMAGE OF ME THAT I CAN'T DO ANYTHING?!
BECAUSE IT'S THE PART YOU PLAY?
WOBBLE
3D...
NOT ONLY THAT! THERE'S ALSO THE SHOPPING, CLEANING, CLOTHES WASHING...
I'M WORKING ALL SORTS OF JOBS, ONE AFTER THE NEXT!!
TSUKAMOTO TENMA IS HARD AT WORK!!
OF COURSE I SHARE THE CHORES THAT I CAN DO WITH YAKUMO!!!
おちて!
FALLING INTO DEPRESSION...
LET'S JUST NOT MENTION ALL OF THE SCREW-UPS THAT I DO.

Bonus Rumble · · · · · · · · Fin

About the Creator

Jin Kobayashi was born in Tokyo. *School Rumble* is his first manga series. He has answered these questions from his fans:

What is your hobby?
Basketball

Which manga inspired you to become a creator?
Dragon Ball

Which character in your manga do you like best?
Kenji Harima

What type of manga do you want to create in the future?
Action

Name one book, piece of music, or movie you like.
The Indiana Jones series

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Omiai marriage meeting, page 3

Although love marriages have been making great strides in popularity, arranged marriages are still a large part of Japanese culture. The two prospective candidates meet each other, usually surrounded by family and go-betweens, and have a short conversation regarding such topics as school and work history and hobbies. Either candidate has the option to refuse. Arranged marriages are considered "safer" than love marriages—less prone to divorce—since both families are invested in making sure the marriage works.

Kagemusha, page 3

As fans of Kurosawa movies know, a *kagemusha* is a look-alike for a feudal lord and a decoy for assassins.

What are your hobbies? page 3

As mentioned above, this is one of the standard questions asked during an *omiai*. Asking about one's hobbies is so routine, it is almost a cliché.

Eri-san, page 6

Although in most families parents drop the honorifics to show intimacy, there are all sorts of familial relationships in Japan, and all sorts of ways honorifics can be used within a family. Rich or traditionally high-born families may have different rules for the use of honorifics when addressing one another.

Phimosis, page 28

Um...it's a man thing. This is a family-friendly manga, okay? If you really need to know, then look it up. Sure, one survey reportedly put the percentage of phimosis at 50 percent of Japanese men. But Yoshidayama wasn't talking about it anyway. Forget it. Ahem.

Dasu, page 31

Many types of sentence-ending words or sounds can illustrate one's character. Nishimoto Ganji's "-dasu" is just one of those sounds. It has no particular meaning.

Bambinas, page 36

Yes, he said "bambinas" in the Japanese version, too.

Emperor Penguins, page 43

Takano is talking, of course, about the sixty five-day brooding period during which male emperor penguins stand on the frozen ice-pack, keeping their eggs warm and eating nothing while the female is off in the sea finding food. The female then brings back the food to regurgitate for the newly hatched chicks.

Young Gama, Pin-up Idols, page 62

There is a type of *seinen* (young men's) manga magazine called "Young," such as *Young Magazine* and *Young Sunday*. These run more risqué *seinen* manga and feature photo collections of pin-up idols in various stages of undress.

Jingle Bells, White Christmas, page 73

These Western holiday traditions are also familiar to the Japanese.

First Dream of the Year, page 87

One's first dream of the new year is said to be prophetic. The three best things to dream about are (in order) Mt. Fuji, a hawk, and an eggplant. Any of these symbols are said to bring good fortune for the year.

New Year's Observances, page 87

One of the few widely followed religious observances in Japan is a New Year's visit to a temple or shrine (usually several of each). Some make an event of it, wearing extravagant kimono and arriving at the tolling of the midnight bell escorted by a date. One throws a coin into the offering box, makes a quick prayer that may include a wish, and then goes on to other New Year's festivities.

Congratulations, page 87

The standard greeting on the new year is *akemashite omedetô gozaimasu*, or "Congratulations on seeing in the New Year." This is said when one first meets someone after the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve. The phrase is usually followed by *kotoshi mo yoroshiku onegaishimasu*, "Please look well on me this year, too." I translated the follow-up phrase as, "Let's make the best of this year, too," which is a little closer to the intent. (Before the clock strikes midnight on New Year's, the greeting is *yoi o-toshi o*, which means "Have a good year.")

Shishi-mai, page 91

The Shishi-mai Lion Dance is an ancient Chinese import, but like most imports has been adapted to Japanese tastes. Originally a prayer for household safety and good harvest, it is now performed as a good-luck charm as a part of the New Year's festivities. The dance varies, depending on the region. Variations include one- and two-man lions, and dances with more than one lion.

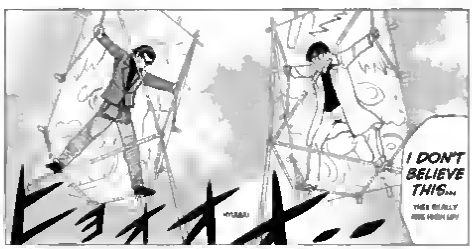
Clothing Stores on New Year's, page 95

There are especially extravagant holiday sales at most department stores, so the first days of the new year are big shopping days.

New Year's Kite Flying, page 99

New Year's doesn't seem to be the ideal time for kite flying, but Japan has not always used the Western calendar for New Year's. The original Japanese calendar was a lunar calendar, and the new year fell at the start of springtime (when flying kites would be more appropriate). But kite flying has remained a New Year's tradition throughout the centuries. Kites are thought to have come to Japan toward the end of the seventh century, and in Buddhism they symbolize a way of giving thanks.

Battling Kites, page 100



Battle kites are of a strikingly different construction than other Japanese kites, so they are thought to be an import. The most prominent theory is that they are derived from the Indian fighter kite introduced to the Japanese by foreigners at Nagasaki, the only port open to foreign visitors during the Edo period.

Hundred Verses Collection, page 103

Also called *karute* ("carte" or "cards"), this is a popular indoor game played on New Year's. Each of the cards contains a poem from the *Hyakunin-isshu* (Hundred Verses Collection), a famous collection of *waka* poems. It is played pretty much as Ichijô describes it, except not usually as a contact sport.

The Priest Ne Yoshi Tada Poem, page 103

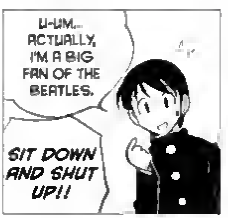
This is said to be a tenth-century poem that compares the course of true love with the perils of boatmen on a stormy sea.

Hagoita (Battledore and Shuttlecock), page 104

Another rite of the spring new year (see the kite flying note above) that was kept even after the New Year's date was moved to coincide with the Western calendar. Actually Hagoita, as a game, isn't all that popular, but the paddles with their elaborately decorated backs have become a popular collector's item. They have become a traditional gift on the birth of a baby girl.

The Beatles, page 109

The Beatles were nearly as popular in Japan as they were in English-speaking nations. Most karaoke establishments will have very few English-language songs, but their repertoire will include the more popular Beatles tunes.



Warring-States period, Oda Nobunaga, page 114

During the warring-states period of Japanese history (1467-1573), many charismatic leaders vied to become the shogun of all Japan. The Ashikaga shoguns fell to their own internal divisions, leaving the country open to any warrior who could take it. The one who finally did was Oda Nobunaga. Although he forcibly brought Japan under his rule, thus ending the warring-states period, he never gained full control of all parts of the nation as Tokugawa did some twenty years later.

Takeda, page 114

Takeda Shingen was one of Oda Nobunaga's rivals during the warring-states period. He was a fierce warrior of ruthless ambition but also a good administrator, who, unlike many other lords of the period, had the support of the working classes in his home area.

Guan Xing, page 114

This is a play on words. *Kankô* is the word for "tourism," but a soundalike name, also pronounced *kankô*, is the Japanese

pronunciation of Guan Xing, an officer and warrior for the Kingdom of Shu in the Chinese epic, *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms*. I tried to keep the pun related as closely to Guan Xing as possible.

Saitô Dôsan, Serpent, page 115

Dôsan was reported to have "stolen a state" to become head of the Saitô clan during the warring-states period. He married his daughter to Oda Nobunaga to cement an alliance, but he was defeated and killed by his own son, Saitô Yoshiatsu, in 1556. He was known as the "Serpent of Mino" because of his ruthlessness.

Toyotomi Hideyoshi, Date Masamune, page 115

Toyotomi Hideyoshi ruled Japan in the aftermath of Oda Nobunaga's death. He consolidated power to such an extent that he went on to invade Korea. He fell ill and died in 1599, leaving a son too young to take power and succeed him. One of his field commanders was Date Masamune, who had ambitions of his own before Hideyoshi took him into service. Date Masamune went on to a high rank in Tokugawa's power structure at the beginning of the Edo period.

Uesugi, page 115

Uesugi Kenshin, the "Dragon of Echigo," was a rival of Oda Nobunaga and Takeda Shingen. Many of his followers believed he was Bishamonten, the Japanese god of war.

Asai, page 116

Asai Nagamasa married the sister of Oda Nobunaga, but when Nobunaga broke his word and invaded the region of Echizen, Asai allied himself with the Asakura clan of Echizen, fought Nobunaga, and was defeated. He tried to ally himself with Takeda Shingen but again was defeated, and he ended up taking his own life.

Isenokami Hidetsuna, Ittôsai, page 118

Aside from founding the Shin-Kage-Ryû school of fencing, Hidetsuna also declined an offer to become Takeda Shingen's vassal. He did, however, change his name from Hidetsuna to Nobutsuna to honor Shingen (whose original name was Harunobu). Ittôsai Ito was a swordmaster of the late warring-states period. He formed the Ittô-Ryû one-cut school of swordsmanship, and is said to have survived thirty-three individual combats in his travels throughout Japan without losing once.

Going to Tokyo, page 119

If one wants to get ahead in life, one must move from the rural areas

to an urban center, the biggest of which is Tokyo. Going from the boondocks to the big city is a common theme throughout the world, but it has reached new heights of cliché in Japan.

Aomori, page 120

The prefecture at the northernmost tip of the main island of Honshu, Aomori is known for being a faraway, rural province.

Grew up together, page 125

Being *osananajimi*, or "childhood friends," is a very romantic notion. It is often assumed that close male/female friends will marry someday.

Izakaya, page 128

Izakaya are a cross between a restaurant and a pub. As the *zaka* part of the word—the same kanji used for sake ("rice wine")—indicates, they serve all kinds of spirits, but they also provide a wide variety of snacks and meals. *Izakaya* tend to be lively, noisy places.

Conte D'hiver (A Tale of Winter), page 143

The second of director Eric Rohmer's Four Seasons cycle of movies, which includes *Conte de Printemps (A Tale of Springtime)* in 1990, *Conte D'hiver (A Tale of Winter)* in 1992, *Conte D'été (Summer's Tale)* in 1996, and *Conte D'automne (Autumn Tale)* in 1998.

Ina Bauer, page 153

After the 2006 Winter Olympics, the Ina Bauer became the most famous figure-skating move in Japan. The Japanese had high hopes for medals that year, but until the figure skating finals, Japan had not achieved even one gold. In the women's finals, Shizuka Arakawa was in third place after the short program, behind Sasha Cohen and Irena Slutskaya. In the freestyle, Cohen and Slutskaya both fell, but Arakawa performed a clean program. Her jumps were not outstanding, but her layback Ina Bauer became the signature element that won her Japan's only gold medal of the Turin Olympics. Afterwards, the term "Ina Bauer" was very much in vogue with the Japanese media.